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Recovery from whiplash

William Rees-Mogg on what a new leader must do to save the Tories, **page 20**



Trail of the triffid

Dalya Alberge on the Attenborough guide to living plants, **page 18**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,132 THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 1994

Rebels are told: 'If I am convinced the policy is right I will proceed with that policy'

Major fights to get back in control

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR declared last night that he would not be deflected from his course by his lack of a parliamentary majority or continued sniping at his leadership as he battled to regain his grip after the Commons defeat over VAT.

As the Chancellor sanctioned a rise of half a percentage point on interest rates and prepared an emergency package to plug the £1 billion hole in the public finances, the Prime Minister made plain his determination to fight on for what he believed in. In his first interview since the eight-vote defeat on Tuesday night, Mr Major said that he entered politics because he wanted to get things done. "It is not for the fun, not for the prestige, not for the money. I am in politics because of the things I care about and wish to do.

"I am concerned about policy, not self. If I am convinced the policy is right I will proceed with that policy. That is what I have done. That is what I am in politics for. That is what I wish to go on doing."

Mr Major, whose leadership is under renewed criticism after the most humiliating reverse of his premiership, fought back against his critics and pledged that he would take no risks with economic recovery. He talked up the country's economic prospects as the Chancellor secured the backing of senior minsiters at a Downing Street meeting last night for his mini-Budget to be delivered to the Commons today.

But in spite of calls from ministers and MPs for the leadership swiftly to make peace with the Euro-rebels, Mr Major was reported to be in no mood to offer a speedy return to the fold for MPs who defeated an important plank of his financial policy.

In his interview with *Channel 4 News* he declined to put any time limit on the return of the nine unwhipped Tories to the parliamentary party and defended his decisions both to make the European vote last week a confidence issue and the punishment he had meted out to the rebels. But in an apparent overture he said that the outcasts had been elected as Conservatives: "The Conservatives who lost the whip are still Conservatives. I would hope they would still judge matters on their merits. I hope they will do that."



Clarke: will deliver mini-Budget today

A mood of despairing resignation settled on Tory MPs yesterday in the aftermath of Tuesday's defeat. The predominant view was that they were destined to struggle on through another period of internal turmoil with a wounded Prime Minister and Government and that Mr Major's powers of resilience would again be put to the test.

Although they deny it, the "unwhipped" are regarded as a party within a party by many of their former colleagues, who fear their capacity to do further damage. Sir Andrew Bowden, the senior backbencher, said: "They were settling old scores; they were getting at the Prime Minister. There is no honour in that."

Tory MPs were aghast that nine days after the Budget the Chancellor was being forced to come to the Commons to alter it. Mr Clarke delivered a warning that, to keep a Government in power, the parliamentary party had to act as a party of government.

Senior ministers were privately accusing their former colleagues of bad faith. Although, apparently, there were no direct contacts between the Government whips and the nine unwhipped Tories, informal soundings taken by intermediaries had left ministers with the impression that no more one or two of them would withhold support.

In the event their calculations were wildly wrong. One minister said: "We were misled. It was a deliberate act. These people might be enjoying themselves today but sooner or later their constituency associations will come to realise what they are trying to do to the Government."

Mr Clarke, his own authority badly dented by the loss of an important revenue-raising measure, hit out at the rebels in a series of interviews. "The people who rebelled against us last night were elected as Conservatives and they were elected on a platform of supporting the Conservative Government," he said.

Mr Clarke's sanctioning of yesterday's rise in interest rates of half a percentage point, taking the rate to 6.25 per cent, followed a breakfast meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Although a rise had clearly been in the pipeline, the announcement was moved forward to help to steady the markets after the VAT vote.

The Chancellor's mini-Budget package, discussed with Mr Major yesterday and being put to the Cabinet this morning, could be a mixture spending cuts achieved by reductions in Whitehall running costs and a possible increase in excise duties on cigarettes and petrol.

Politics, page 11
William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article and letters, page 21

ANDRÉ CAMARA



The Prime Minister in Downing Street yesterday. He turned his back on continued sniping and promised to continue to fight for his beliefs

The party's over: now for the headache

Political Sketch by Matthew Parris

YESTERDAY in the Commons was the morning after. You could almost hear the *plink, plink, fizz*. Did I really do that? Did we really say that? Do you think he'll remember? Is it too late to apologize? Was I totally out of order, or only a bit? Ooh my aching head.

Dennis Skinner summed it up. Squaring up to the Foreign Secretary, who was trying to persuade us to feel interested in the former Yugoslavia and squaring up to half a century of Eton and Cambridge-educated circumspection, the Labour Member for Bolsover said — or rather yelled:

"Why should any Serb or Muslim, fighting each other, believe they've got to take any notice of this broken-backed Government which has lost control over its own rebels, can't raise taxes and has lost its authority?"

With that faintly wounded chuckle at which he so excels, Douglas Hurd replied that he was more used to hearing this kind of outburst from Mr Karadzic in the Balkans than from Mr Skinner in Bolsover.

Elsewhere, the mood in the House gave little indication either of broken backs or of rebellion. It was more like the mood in a household after an exceptionally wild party the night before, a party in which things had got quite out of hand.

Some members of the Parliamentary household had enjoyed themselves rather too much. Some had not enjoyed themselves at all. For others, it had all ended in tears. Those who had scored were walking on air. Those who had bombed were looking distinctly sheepish. Everybody needed a good night's sleep.

As so often at Westminster, the day's timetable failed to live up to the world's assessment of the day's significance. In corridors, in offices and in the backs of ministerial cars, history may well have been moving foward as the Great Ones counted the cost and plotted tactics; but in the cockpit of the nation's destiny it was Questions to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Lang.

Solvent abuse in Gordon, drift net fishing off Aberdeen and a new ferry service to the Isle of Harris exercised the passions of the eight Tory (and twenty-odd Labour) eccentrics who thought the Chamber was the place to be.

Ian Lang, who may be Prime Minister one day, was batting valiantly and with real flair, but almost unnoticed, in the face of merciless bowling from Labour and Scottish Nationalist MPs. Lang, whose family motto should be "never say die", managed a more spirited defence of economic progress in the realm than we have heard in months. Unlike English Tories, Celtic ones seem to get better when they arebeleaguered.

But it was not inside the Palace of Westminster, but all around it, that the importance of the hour showed. As dusk fell, an aerial view of the site would have shown the Houses of Parliament themselves in near obscurity, and all around it patches of brilliant light as television crews and journalists interviewed ministers, backbenchers, and each other, taking care to keep Big Ben in shot in the background. The Commons appeared like a dark castle, surrounded by a floodlit moat. The chamber had produced its fireworks the night before. The morning after, it was the media who were partying.

Lottery prize may hit £15m

The estimated jackpot for this week's National Lottery is now £15 million.

Because there was no outright winner of last Saturday's £6.9 million top prize, that money has been added to this week's draw.

The record prize is expected to attract syndicates of players, who buy millions of tickets. The jackpot can be rolled over a maximum of three times over four weeks.

After that, if there still is no winner, unclaimed prize money is shared out between people who match five correct numbers plus the bonus number in that week.

The biggest pools win so far has been £2.9 million.

Islanders save stranded whales

Islanders on Unst, the most northerly of the Shetland Islands, have rescued seven stranded killer whales.

The islanders, wearing chest-waders, endured 5ft waves to reach the beached whales and persuaded them to swim out to sea. The whales are believed to have been following a dying eighth whale Pages 3, 21

Takeover bids are referred

Takeover bids from the General Electric Company and British Aerospace for VSEL, the nuclear submarine builder, lapsed yesterday after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The reference was announced by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade..... Page 25

Serb blockade drives UN from Bihac 'safe area'

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND JONATHAN PRYNN

AS MANY as half of the 1,200 United Nations troops in a Bosnian Muslim enclave being overrun by advancing Serb forces are to be withdrawn as a result of a crippling Serb blockade on food and fuel to the peacekeepers, the United Nations said yesterday.

Serb forces besieging the Bihac pocket have prevented UN convoys carrying food, fuel, medicine, winter clothes and weapons from reaching the troops. The UN hopes that the remaining peacekeepers will have more tolerable living conditions if the Serbs continue to allow a trickle of resupply convoys through, although senior officials remain concerned that the Serbs could drive out whatever troops remain in the enclave.

The decision to withdraw some of the troops in Bihac stems from alarm about their ability to survive the winter under Serb blockade and comes at the time when the 1,200 troops should theoretically be needed most to aid civilians and protect the "safe area". The pullout could begin today but it was unclear if the troops had enough fuel to drive themselves out.

The planned withdrawal is one of the embattled mission's biggest retreats of the war and could be a harbinger of further pullouts in other Muslim enclaves. Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, yesterday called for Nato and the UN to finalise plans for a withdrawal of the 24,000 troops in Bosnia and the 20,000 elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs yesterday that British peacekeeping forces in Bosnia are drawing up contingency plans for a possible withdrawal. With the Cabinet's defence policy committee meeting today to discuss the possibility of withdrawal, the Foreign Secretary hinted in the Commons that the Government may be moving closer to a decision to pull British troops out of Bosnia.

He said that the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) could only continue its mission "if they can do so without unacceptable risk, and if they can continue to fulfil their mandate".

However, he emphasised that there would be no unilateral withdrawal of the British contingent and that a pullout was not imminent.



Juppé: asked Nato to draw up pullout plan

European summit, page 12
Serb peace hint, page 14

Business greets increase in interest rates with dismay

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE raised interest rates yesterday by half a point to 6.25 per cent to demonstrate his determination to keep a firm grip on the economy after Tuesday night's Commons revolt over VAT on fuel. His firm action won the approval of the financial markets, but was greeted with dismay by business leaders, industrialists and mortgage lenders.

The second increase in borrowing costs this autumn provoked cries of betrayal and warnings that consumers, already hit by higher taxes and mortgage rates, would zip up their wallets.

Building societies yesterday held their rates but made clear they would be under pressure to raise them in the months ahead. The Halifax, Britain's largest society, expressed deep disappointment over the move, saying it would further damage the fragile recovery in the housing market.

The Federation of Small Businesses said that the rate rise would bring more business failures and that its 70,000 members would feel betrayed. The British Chambers of Commerce said that consumer spending could come to a stop.

The Confederation of British Industry and the pro-Conservative Institute of Directors lamented the decision and accused the Chancellor of being guided by political considerations after his defeat on VAT. Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the institute, said: "The impression has been given that the Chancellor has rushed into a political decision rather than one based on sound economic judgment."

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, urged the Chancellor to act "decisively" to restore confidence in the Government's fiscal strategy, arguing that continued uncertainty would be damaging and could lead to even higher interest rates.

The City, however, applauded the Chancellor's swift action to restore his credibility with the markets. An interest-rate rise either this month or next had been widely expected.

Mr Clarke will tell the Commons today how he will fill the hole in the Government's finances left by the VAT defeat. Although he could decide simply to borrow the funds, some economists said last night that he could increase other taxes. He might raise the overall level of VAT to 18 per cent. Alternatively, he could cut the level of mortgage interest relief or the married couple's allowance.

City backs rise, page 25
Pennington, page 26
Economic view, page 29

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Vice-Chancellor who fiddled expenses quits with big payoff


Lord Palumbo: to seek counsel's opinion

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

GOVERNORS of Portsmouth University yesterday accepted the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Merritt, who had admitted submitting inaccurate claims for expenses incurred on overseas business.

He is understood to have been employed on a two-year "rolling contract" at a salary of £90,000. He could receive two years' severance pay — £180,000 — under the terms of his contract, although the final amount is still to be determined.

Professor Merritt tendered his resignation on Tuesday after a bitter campaign by unions seeking his removal. In a poll of 1,380 staff last month, almost 93 per cent expressed no confidence in his leadership.

Criticism of Professor Merritt began to mount when his deputy, Professor John Pickering, who had headed the institution before it became a university, was declared redundant earlier this year. Professor Pickering had been responsible for finance, and was thought by staff to have drawn attention to discrepancies in the vice-chancellor's expenses.

Professor Merritt, who combined his academic post with the chairmanship of Hillingdon Hospital Trust, had received a written reprimand in May for cashing in a Club Class air ticket to Malaysia and buying two economy seats so that his wife could accompany him. A hotel bill had been retyped, disguising the presence of his wife, and some receipts from the trip were missing.

Professor Merritt apologised to staff for an "error of judgment", although he insisted that governors had been aware of his intentions. At the same time, the governors promised an inquiry into the affair and whether there was any link between it and Professor Pickering's departure. However, before the inquiry could begin, Professor Merritt announced his resignation in a letter to his staff, which said: "I have cared passionately about the success of the university and because of this, I will not allow current events to erode the progress which has been made over the last three-and-a-half years."

The vice-chancellor said he had strongly advocated the establishment of the inquiry and believed he had nothing to fear from it. But he believed that it was in the interests of the university for him to resign.

Stuart Waring, the chairman of the board of governors, said he had received the resignation with considerable disappointment. "It will be a sad commentary if it is for the manner of his departure that Professor Merritt is remembered rather than the very significant contribution he made to the University of Portsmouth during his term of office as vice-chancellor."

Mr Waring said the inquiry would continue in spite of Professor Merritt's resignation, which would take effect at the end of next week.

Lord Palumbo, the university chancellor, is to approach a leading QC to examine an auditors' report on the vice-chancellor's expenses, the departure of Professor Pickering and any link between the two. The inquiry would also consider "the circumstances that caused matters which should have been dealt with by the board being prosecuted in public".

Mr Waring added: "Lord Palumbo has been kept closely informed with all the developments of this matter and is as saddened as we all are that it has reached this stage."

On the severance deal, Mr Waring said: "There has been a great deal of speculation about a so-called 'golden handshake'. All I am willing to say is that Professor Merritt will be paid in full until the end of his contract."

Health Department accused of negligence over mattress chemicals

Mother wins legal aid for test case cot death challenge

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER whose baby died in his cot aged nine months is to receive legal aid to prepare the first legal challenge to the Government over cot deaths. The Legal Aid Board has granted a legal aid certificate to Joanne Forrest, 20, for what would be a test case concerning an estimated 400 cot deaths a year.

The action is being prepared on the basis that the Department of Health was negligent in failing to warn mothers of the alleged dangers of baby mattresses after reports that they give off toxic chemicals.

Ms Forrest, who lives with her partner Peter Bowman in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, said: "I hope this means we can get some answer as to why Callum died and stop it from happening to other people. It came as a real shock. It's not something you expect to happen to you, it's something you read about."

Ms Forrest's lawyers, who are preparing the claim, will seek to establish what scientific evidence there is to demonstrate a causal link between fire-retardants in cot mattresses and baby deaths.

If the action proceeds against the Department of Health, it would be alleging negligence, in that the department failed to warn mothers of the dangers of using such mattresses.

Susan Wilde, a solicitor with Leigh Day & Co, who has been researching cot death cases for about two years, said: "We are delighted to have been granted this first legal aid certificate to research the grounds for bringing a legal action.

"It will enable us to instruct independent scientists to review the evidence available. And with the weight of the Legal Aid Board behind us, we should be able to persuade those who hold the tissue samples from babies who have died to release them for independent examination."

She said that the Department of Health appeared to have been negligent in that it had failed to inform mothers about potential dangers in the mattresses or give them any guidelines.

An inquiry by a group of experts under Professor Paul Turner, which was set up by the department, concluded in May 1991 that the theory that toxic gases from flame-retardant chemicals (antimony) in the mattresses caused cot deaths was not supported by the evidence. However, at the beginning of this month the Government reopened the inquiry after a *Cook Report* programme which found increased levels of antimony in the tissue of cot death babies.

The programme restated the view that the chemical gas could be the cause of sudden infant death syndrome, a theory first put forward by Barry Richardson, a past chairman of the Association of Consulting Scientists.

Ms Wilde said: "I am anxious to get on with this. Mothers don't know what to do for the best. No parent likes to think he or she hasn't taken action. It's a very difficult situation and I want it resolved."

Ms Forrest, who is on income support and lives in a council house with her unemployed partner, said that she had bought a second-hand cot and mattress for Callum, her first baby.

"I thought I had done everything right for him. I was so careful. The day before he died was just a normal day. He went to bed and then I found him the next morning. It came as a real shock."

The legal aid certificate paves the way for lawyers to establish if they can bring a claim. But they still have to establish that the Government was negligent in failing to inform mothers of the dangers and establish a causal link between the antimony and cot deaths.


Callum: died in his cot aged nine months

BARRY GREENWOOD


Peter Bowman and Joanne Forrest. She thought she had "done everything right"

Cracks pose threat to nuclear plant

Hairline cracks in the welds of steam pipes at Dungeness B nuclear power station in Kent pose a serious threat to its continued operation, a senior executive of Nuclear Electric has reported to the company's board. The cracks were found in September in one of the two advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), since when both have been closed. Nuclear Electric is now preparing reports on both reactors for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The report prepared by the company's technology director, Les Mitchell, for a board meeting on October 17 also discloses that the inspectorate has asked Nuclear Electric to monitor similar cracks found three years ago at an AGR at Heysham near Lancaster, this week's issue of *New Scientist* says. A Nuclear Electric spokesman confirmed the accuracy of the report.

Labour youth plans

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, announced Labour plans yesterday for thousands of teenagers to undertake up to a year's community service. He said a new task group would develop a voluntary scheme attracting a "training wage". The scheme, which was one of the main proposals from the party's Commission on Social Justice, seizes on official figures anticipating a £54 million drop in spending on the youth service as evidence of declining opportunities for young people.

Spanish flights threat

Thousands of British holidaymakers planning to fly to Spain over Christmas and the new year face long delays or cancellations because of a dispute between Iberia, the Spanish state-owned airline, and its 24,000 staff. One-day strikes are being planned for tomorrow, December 16, 23 and 30. The action, which follows a breakdown in talks over widescale sackings and cutbacks, will affect flights to the Canaries, the Balearics and the Costas as well as the main Spanish business centres. Travel news, pages 34 and 35

Train crash signal 'dim'

A red signal passed in fog by one of the two drivers killed in a head-on crash between two trains at Cowden, Kent, was only 13.6 per cent as bright as it should have been, the inquiry was told. The signal, at the start of a single-track section, was contaminated with fly excrement and "browning" caused by age, a senior BR scientist said.

MPs accuse Prince

The Prince of Wales was accused of hypocrisy for allowing his children to fox hunt while objecting to film and television violence. More than 100 MPs have signed a motion urging a ban on children hunting foxes. The Labour MP Tony Banks said: "Fox hunting is inexcusable but taking children to join such violence is even more unacceptable."

Three on death charge

Three men were charged with the murder of Mohan Kullar, 61, an Asian shopkeeper who died ten days after being attacked with a brick outside his store near Neath, West Glamorgan. Steven May, 22, Ian Thomas, 20, and Grant Watkins, 22, had earlier been charged with causing Mr Kullar grievous bodily harm with intent.

Police caution Merson



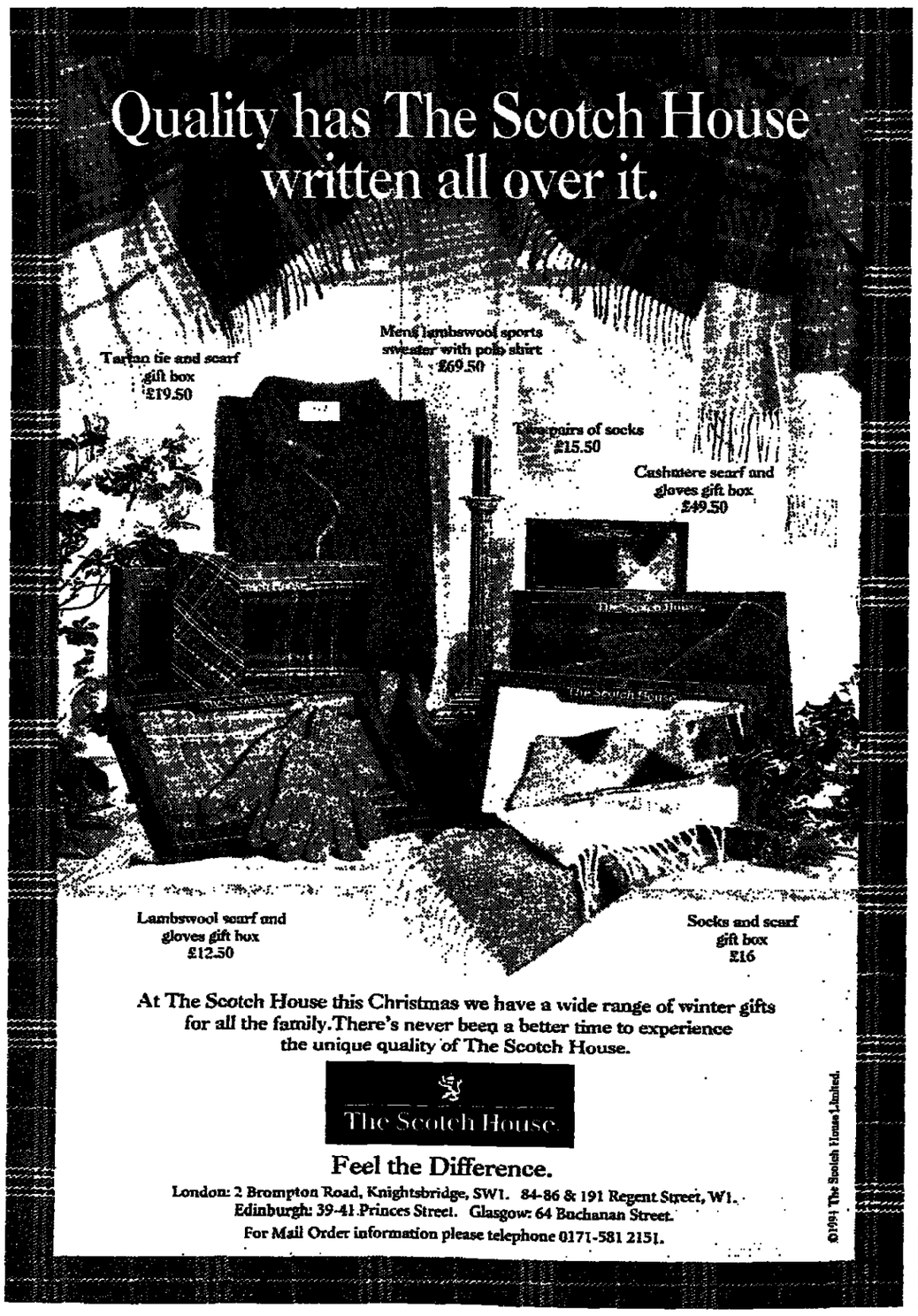
The footballer Paul Merson, left, will not be charged after confessing to being a cocaine addict, police said yesterday. But the Arsenal and England striker has been given an official caution after "fully admitting" possessing the Class A controlled drug for his personal use, Hertfordshire Police said. Merson, 26, volunteered to undergo up to six weeks' rehabilitation to end his addiction.

Guardsman convicted

A Coldstream Guardsman convicted yesterday of causing grievous bodily harm after ripping out a baby's toenails with pliers, had 10 months earlier been convicted of harming the same child, a jury at Exeter Crown Court was told after giving its verdict. Michael Pikesley, 25, of Honiton, Devon, was remanded in custody while reports are prepared.

Stay grumpy, live longer

Cantankerous elderly people should live longer than "sweet old folk", according to a specialist on the aged. They are less likely to be fobbed off with poor medical treatment, Professor John Grimley Evans told a symposium at Newcastle University. People wishing to reach 100 should be informed and refuse second-rate health care.



EU gives £240m bonus for Ulster peace initiative

BY GEORGE BROCK AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE European Union is planning a £240 million fund to help to heal the wounds of the Northern Ireland Troubles, Jacques Delors said yesterday.

The formal decision to assist inner-city regeneration in Belfast and Londonderry and job-creation projects in border areas will be made at the EU summit in Essen, Germany, this weekend. The outline has been agreed between the Commission and the British and Irish governments and political approval is a formality.

M Delors, President of the Commission, said yesterday that as one of the poorest regions in the Union, Northern Ireland was already due to receive almost £1 billion between now and 1999. But a "further gesture was necessary to encourage the two communities to work together. After all, this was the intention of the founding fathers of the European Community ... to make people work together in harmony, to understand each other and to make misunderstanding disappear."

M Delors recently held a meeting with Northern Ireland's three MEPs, John Hume, Ian Paisley and Jim Nicholson, and told diplomats that he was struck by their commitment to the peace process.

The Northern Ireland Office greeted the proposal. "The Government very much welcomes the European Commission's proposals and is grateful for the support that has been outlined by the Commission President," it said.

The Commission will work with the two governments to decide how the money will be spent. Quentin Oliver, director of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, said money should be spent on training the unemployed, training those who had been imprisoned as a result of the Troubles, and improving child care.

Mr Oliver said: "We are particularly pleased that the package targets disadvantaged community groups. We argue that they are the ones who have been neglected, they are the ones who have been squeezed out of society."

Dr Graham Gudgin, the director of the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre, was encouraged that the Commission plans to spend money on training the unemployed. The Province suffers from low investment in research and development — half the United Kingdom average — and proportionately has four times as many long-term unemployed as the mainland.

IRA critic, page 7
European summit, page 13

Universities agree date rape code

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENT victims of rape or serious assault will be given the choice of whether an assailant is reported to the police under a new discipline code published by university vice-chancellors yesterday.

A task force chaired by Professor Graham Zellick, a leading academic lawyer and principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, was established last year amid fears of a growing number of "date rape" cases on British campuses. The group's report recommends that universities should steer clear of involvement in all allegations of serious crime.

In the most highly-publicised case, Austen Donnellan, a student at King's College London was cleared of rape after insisting that allegations against him were investigated by the police, rather than college authorities. The college had tried initially to deal with the incident through its internal procedures. Professor Zellick said yesterday that there should be no criticism of King's, which was exonerated in a separate report by Judge Marcus Edwards. But the report strongly advises universities to report serious incidents to the police immediately, unless the victim asks for confidentiality.

The report acknowledged that universities might be criticised for not reporting incidents if further accusations were made against the individual concerned. But the group felt that automatic reporting might discourage students from coming forward.

Both students' and lecturers' unions welcomed the approach, which was agreed after consultation with the police and university groups. Universities will not be required to follow the group's recommendations, although most are expected to review their procedures.

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Shetlanders coax beached whales to safety

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

ISLANDERS on Unst, the most northerly of the Shetland Islands, rescued seven stranded killer whales yesterday amid gales.

Locals wearing chest-waders endured 5ft waves to reach the whales, which had beached themselves at Uyeasound on the south of the island, and persuaded them to swim out to sea. They had been noticed yesterday morning and are believed to have followed a dying eighth whale into the shallows, where they became stuck.

The rescue was co-ordinated by Harry Edwards, the island's only policeman, who is based at Baltasound. He first heard of the whales' plight at 8.10am. "Myself and five or six of the local lads went into the sea. One whale was dead in the water. We turned the rest around and pointed them out to sea but at first they just turned back on to the beach. Then we removed the dead whale and managed to turn the other seven again and they headed back out to sea."

The rescue took about two-and-a-half hours. "It was quite difficult to turn them round. We had two or three chaps working with each animal but they are quite buoyant and were reasonably compliant. They were communicating with each other all the time, calling with a sort of squeak. Occasionally they would blow on us," Mr Edwards said.

As darkness fell yesterday the whales were still swimming near the sandy beach at Uyeasound and their four-foot fins were visible from the land. A team of three environmentalists from Scottish Natural Heritage, a conservation body for Scotland, arrived on the island to monitor developments.

A decision on whether to perform an autopsy on the dead whale is still to be made but a tooth has been extracted to establish its age. Jonathan Swale, one of the conservationists based in the Lerwick office, said very little was know about killer whales. "We are concerned about them. There is a lot of doubt about what causes them to become stranded and it may happen again. One theory is that sick whales come into shallow water in an attempt to breathe more easily and the pod follows them in.

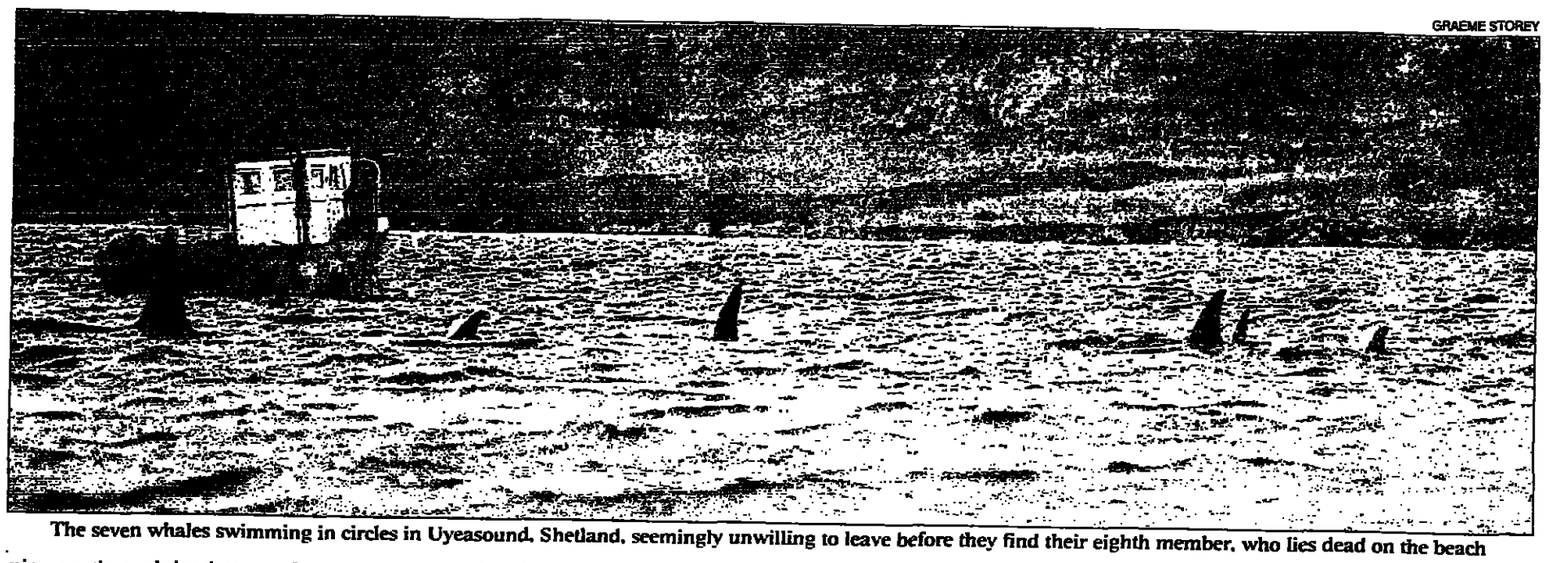
"The sick animal may be the one which died, or it could be one of the others. The whales are not trapped. They can easily get out to sea from where they are so a rescue mission with boats to shepherd them out would be unnecessary."

In March last year environmentalists rescued a group of six 40ft sperm whales trapped in Scapa Flow in Orkney by shepherding them out to sea with a flotilla of boats. It was the first time such an ambitious rescue attempt had been made.

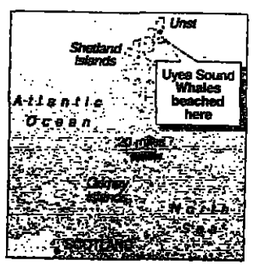
Killer whales, which used to be a rare sight, have become more common in Shetland in recent years. Last Christmas a pod remained at Cat Firth for several days. Last month a killer whale came into the inlet to die. A post-mortem examination showed that it had swallowed a tiny fishing hook.

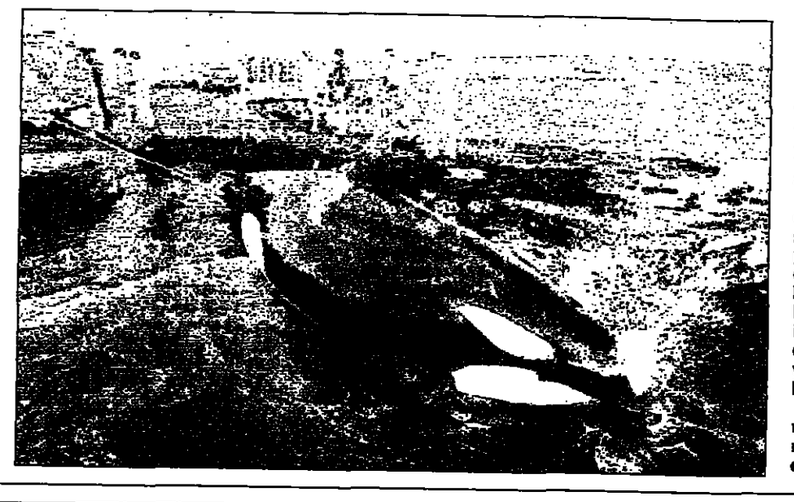
Leading article, page 21

GRAEME STOREY



The seven whales swimming in circles in Uyeasound, Shetland, seemingly unwilling to leave before they find their eighth member, who lies dead on the beach





Theories multiply on mystery of nature

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

WHALE beachings remain a mystery, in spite of dozens of possible explanations put forward over the years.

"There may be some overriding reasons, but we really don't know," says Christina Lockyer of the Sea Mammal Research Unit in Cambridge. She points out that many whales who end up on beaches are ill, or dying, and may simply be unable to resist onshore currents.

Sometimes, she says, one member of a whale family may be be ill and the rest stay with it in an effort to help — and all become beached. Another theory is that parasitic worms in the ears of whales cause infections that affect the sense of direction.

Dr Margaret Klinowska, of Cambridge University, suggests that strandings take place when whales make errors of map-reading. She believes that whales navigate by using the Earth's magnetic field, swimming along the contours of the "hills and valleys" in the field caused by local geology.

All British strandings occur at places where these magnetic contours lead directly towards the shore.

Libelled policeman accepts £375,000

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

A FORMER senior police officer accepted £375,000 libel damages in the High Court yesterday after being branded a pervert who sexually abused young boys.

The amount was offered to Gordon Anglesea by the *Independent on Sunday*, *The Observer*, *Private Eye* and HTV just before the jury was due to announce its award.

George Carman, QC, on behalf of all the defendants, said that they agreed to pay the damages and costs unofficially estimated at £1 million. They also promised never to repeat the allegations, concerning his visits to a former children's home.

Mr Anglesea, a 57-year-old retired superintendent, claimed that his hopes of a happy retirement were shattered by the "filthiest lies imaginable". Three of his alleged victims gave evidence against him in court.

The jury found in his favour on Tuesday after almost ten hours of deliberations. Yesterday, as they were about to announce a figure for damages, Mr Justice Drake was told that the parties had agreed a figure of their own.

Outside court Mr Anglesea, of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, said: "I am vindicated, that is all that concerns me. The amount of money is incidental."

Trial of doctor's widow delayed by sticky liquid attack

By Robin Young

THE trial of a doctor's widow accused of fraud was delayed for more than an hour yesterday after an assailant threw sticky liquid over her from a moving car.

The judge allowed Gida Ratner, 21, a former model and the widow of Victor Ratner, a Harley Street doctor, to return home to change her clothes. She is charged with defrauding the daughter of a former owner of *The Daily Telegraph*.

The attack happened as Mrs Ratner was walking with her solicitor and a friend towards accommodation in south London being used temporarily by Knightsbridge Crown Court. The liquid drenched her mauve jacket and her hair.

Mrs Ratner is alleged to have defrauded Eleanor Berry, 44, an author and the daughter of Lord Hartwell. Miss Berry claims to have lost about £17,000 while she was a patient of Dr Ratner, a society doctor whose patients included the film actress Elizabeth Taylor and Princess Alexandra. Dr Ratner was 61 when he died last year.

Miss Berry, who was attending the doctor's preventive medicine clinic for ozone therapy, which is claimed to delay ageing, alleges that the doctor's wife stole a credit card and forged stolen cheques.

Mrs Ratner, who acted as receptionist and financial manager at the practice, denies theft, handling stolen goods, deception and forgery.

When the hearing resumed, Mrs Ratner's counsel suggested that Miss Berry had altered one of her own cheques to implicate Mrs Ratner.

Miss Berry told the court she had been asked to make a cheque out to Mrs Ratner's mother because the doctor owed her money. She claimed that when the cheque was returned to her by her bank the original figure of £650 had been changed to £3,650.

Henry Blaxland suggested Miss Berry had altered the figures herself to "make it look suspicious".

Miss Berry said: "No, I did not do that. I think your accusation is totally outrageous." The case continues.



Ratner: attacked from a moving car

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Confessions of a teenage Tom Jones fan

CAITLIN MORAN MEETS JONES THE VOICE IN

WEEKEND

JANE MACQUITTY'S WHITE CHRISTMAS WINES IN THE

MAGAZINE

Raft guides on fatal trip criticised

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

TWO guides in charge of a white-water rafting expedition that ended with the loss of two lives displayed "a grave and serious disregard of safety", a report said yesterday.

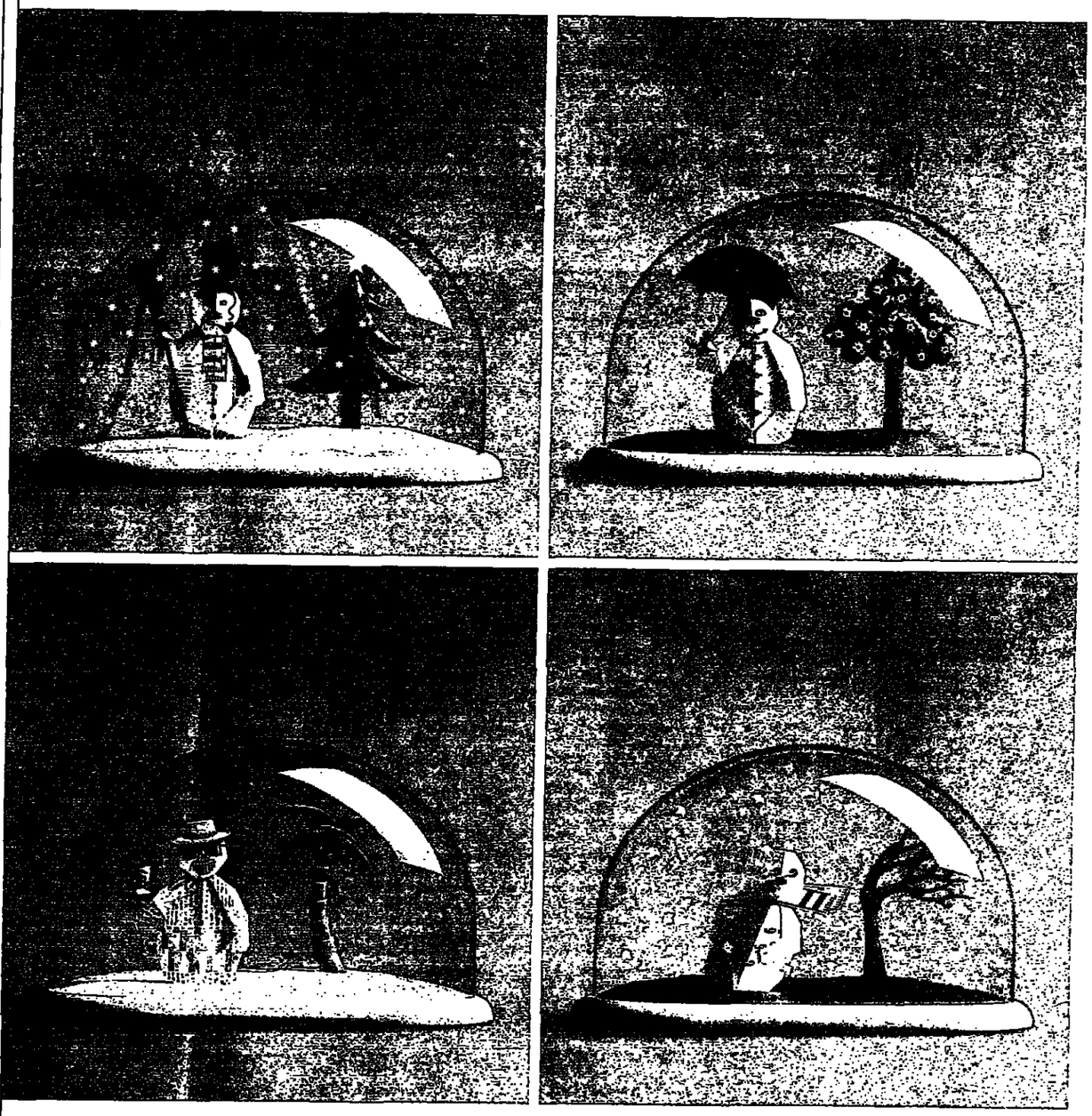
Eilidh Reitze, 17, and George Westwood, 37, drowned when their inflatable raft capsized on the flood-swollen Orchy in March. Sheriff Colin Mackay said that the guides, Douglas Hill, of Motherwell, and Brian Boyle, of Coatbridge, had not been qualified to take charge of the trip. It was only through "good fortune" that the full party of nine did not die.

The trip had been organised at Bellshill police station in Strathclyde, where Mr Westwood, of East Kilbride, was a sergeant. Miss Reitze, of Cumbernauld, was with her stepfather, an inspector.

In his judgment, after a four-day fatal accident inquiry, Sheriff Mackay said: "This rafting expedition should never have left the river bank in the first place that day."

☐ The jury in the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy trial spent last night in an hotel after failing to reach verdicts.

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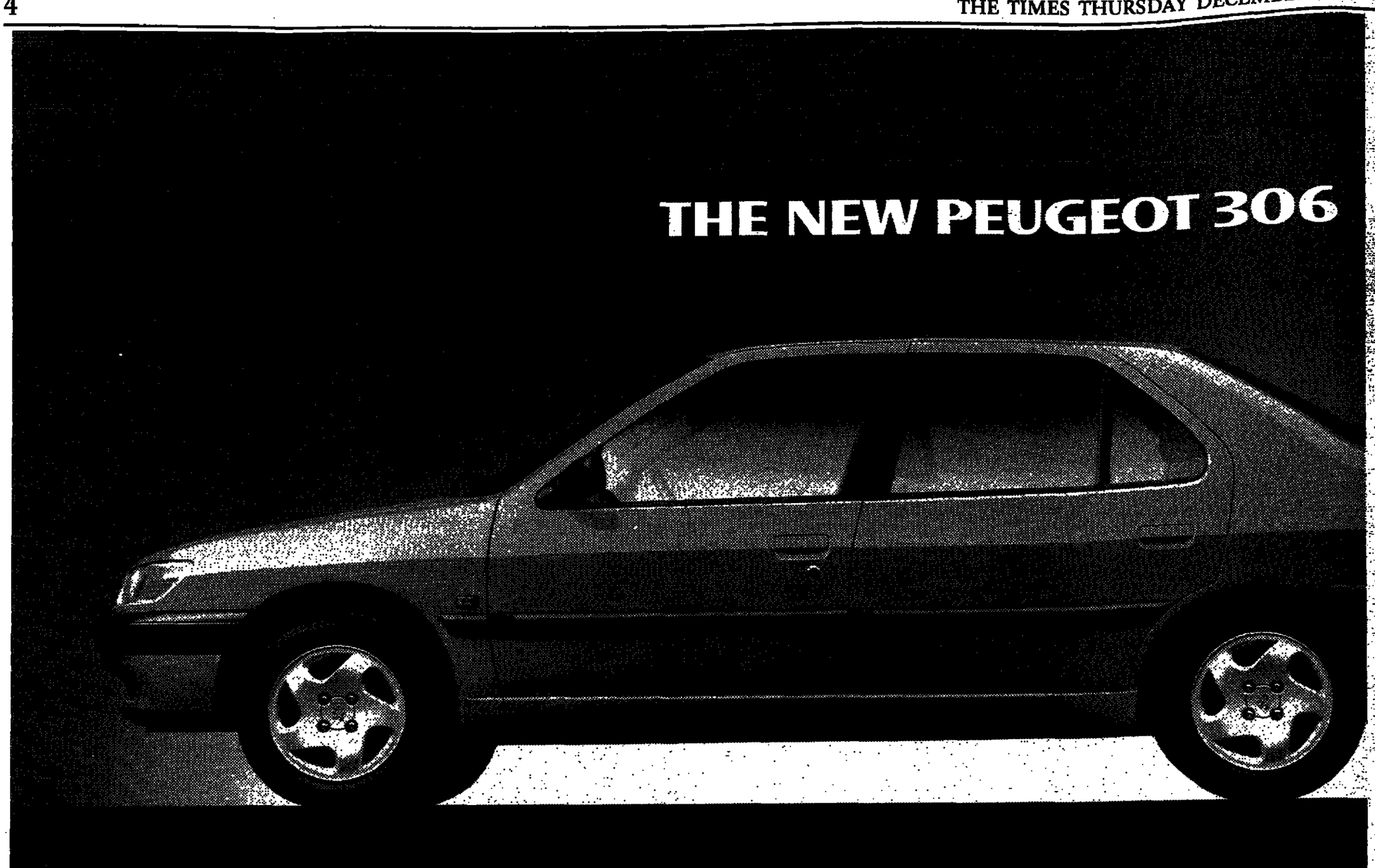
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هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES THU

Garage life fo MoT

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GARAGE ... murdered ... garment ... they were ... cheap MoT ... given ... yesterday.

Thomas ... double-barrelled ... kill the ... range as ... He believed ... employees ... him but ... against him.

Mr ... Bourke "Or ... human ... the high ... and brutal ... public ... day for all to ...

"You ... last ... and are ... any ... room ... at for a ... You have ... fits of ... he ...

Passenge crippled l of panic i

By RICHARD

PASSENGERS on the cruise ... described the ... pair that broke out shortly ... the morning when both ... lights failed, leaving the ... ship in darkness with ... about 2,500 people on board.

... investigation was under ... to last night into why the ... ship shut down off the Isle ... of Wight, while getting at ... passengers ... the ... Channel ... ships.

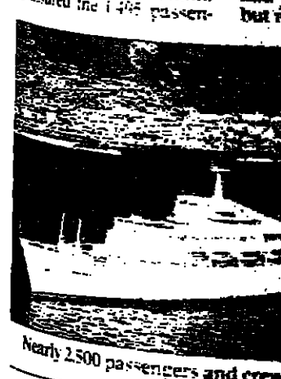
The passengers, who disembarked at Southampton ... morning, told of ... their ... they might ...



... the same fate as those ... on the Achille Lauro, who ... had to abandon ship after a ... fire off the coast of Somalia ... last week.

The P&O flagship, returning from a three-week cruise ... in the Caribbean, had to drop ... anchor three miles off the ... southeast coast of the Isle of ... Wight at 1.30am yesterday ... after fuel apparently stopped ... reaching the boiler that drives ... the two steam turbine engines. ... It was 90 minutes before the ... engines were restored to full ... power.

The captain, Rory Smith, ... assured the 1,496 passen-



Nearly 2,500 passengers and crew

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Garage owner given life for murdering MoT inspectors

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A GARAGE owner who murdered two Transport Department inspectors because they were investigating his cheap MoT business was given two life sentences yesterday.

Thomas Bourke, 32, used a double-barrelled shotgun to kill the men, firing at close range as they sat in his office. He believed that none of his employees would incriminate him but three gave evidence against him.

Mr Justice Sachs told Bourke: "On the scale of human depravity this must rate high as an utterly callous and brutal execution of two public servants doing their duty for all of us.

"You have displayed not the least sign of remorse or regret and are plainly, in my view, a most dangerous man from whom society must be protected for a very, very long time. You have also decimated the lives of your victim's families for reasons which are so pathetic compared with the awful consequence as to render me incredulous. The only sentence I can pass is life imprisonment."



Bourke: grudge against Transport Department

The jury at Manchester Crown Court took ten hours to reach a 10-2 verdict that Bourke had murdered Alan Singleton, 56, and Simon Bruno, 28, at a garage in Stockport last November.

Bourke, from Stockport, claimed that he was elsewhere at the time of the killings. He declined to give evidence during the trial.

Outside court Mr Bruno's mother, Patricia, demanded the return of the death penalty. "We have perhaps seen the right verdict, but these murders were not done on the spur of the moment, they were premeditated. If someone plans to do something like that they should lose their life."

Mr Bruno's widow Susan, who has a two-year-old daughter Kate, said: "Our lives were destroyed by what happened. Some day I am going to have to explain all this to Kate. She knows she had a daddy because of the photos and when we buy flowers she knows we are going to the cemetery."

Detective Inspector Kenneth Caldwell, who investigated the killings, said: "We have got a very dangerous man off the streets. He is where he belongs. He thought he was above the law and that he could not be touched."

Bourke was known as the Milky Bar Kid because of his boyish looks, his 5ft 2in stature and love of guns. He kept a huge armoury of weapons at his home.

He was given a strict Roman Catholic upbringing by his widowed mother in Moss Side, Manchester. He left school at 16 and went straight into the garage business.

Eventually he controlled four garages selling cut-price exhausts and cheap MoT tests. The court was told that he harboured a grudge against the Transport Department because it had withdrawn permission to carry out MoT tests at one of his premises. Mr Singleton had then rejected a fresh application.

Bourke killed the inspectors when they visited Chestergate Autos. David Mitchell, the manager, was speaking to the men when someone tried the door. Mr Bruno leant forward in his chair to open it. A man wearing a Hallowe'en mask entered and, without a word, shot Mr Bruno in the face.

He then turned his weapon on Mr Singleton. Both men suffered horrific injuries and died instantly. Mr Mitchell told the court that he believed he would be killed too, but the murderer turned and fled.

Another employee, Robert McGahey, told the court that Bourke ordered him to hide a holdall containing the murder weapon. Mr McGahey took the holdall and the clothes Bourke had been wearing to a friend's home, where he burnt the garments. Later he took police to where the gun was hidden.



Alan Singleton with his wife Barbara. He had rejected an application from Bourke to carry out MoT tests



Bruno: shot after he opened door to Bourke

Tea firms accused of hiding health risk

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE health risks of caffeine, the world's most widely used stimulant, are being played down by scientists manipulated by the caffeine industry, a health researcher claims.

Evidence that caffeine is harmful to health has been growing for 30 years but the caffeine industry has clouded the issue and reversed a fall in sales, according to a leading article in the medical journal *Addiction*.

Professor Jack James, head of the School of Behavioural Health Sciences at La Trobe University, Australia, says that evidence linking caffeine with increases in blood pressure, retarded growth of babies in the womb and adverse reactions with medical drugs all give "strong grounds for public concern".

He says publicity given to the findings caused sales of coffee and tea to fall sharply up to the late 1980s but the industry had manipulated the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

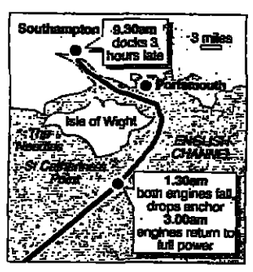
Passengers from crippled liner tell of panic in dark

BY RICHARD DUCE

PASSENGERS on the cruise liner *Canberra* yesterday described the momentary panic that broke out shortly after midnight when both engines failed, leaving the ship to drift in a gale with almost 2,500 people on board.

An investigation was under way last night into why the engines shut down off the Isle of Wight in winds gusting at up to 60mph, plunging the 49,000-tonne vessel into darkness.

The passengers, who disembarked at Southampton yesterday morning, told of their fear that they might suffer the same fate as those on the *Achille Lauro*, who had to abandon ship after a fire off the coast of Somalia last week.



The P&O flagship, returning from a three-week cruise to the Caribbean, had to drop anchor three miles off the southeast coast of the Isle of Wight at 1.30am yesterday after fuel apparently stopped reaching the boiler that drives the two steam turbo engines. It was 90 minutes before the engines were restored to full power.

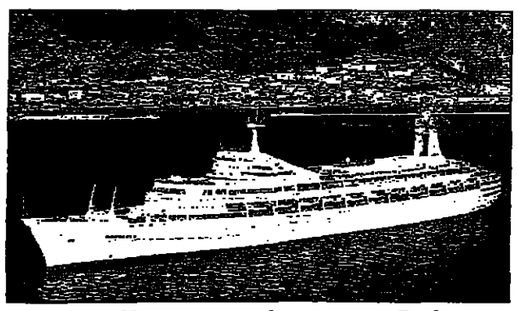
The captain, Rory Smith, 50, assured the 1,495 passengers and 931 crew that they were not in danger, but coastguards were alerted and helicopters in England and Belgium were put on standby.

Stils Koenig, 79, a Norwegian-born widow from Deal, Kent, said: "Suddenly the lights went out and I heard a siren. I was in complete darkness. I fell to the floor and began to panic. I had to fumble around in the dark for my stick to pull myself up. My heart was thumping and I could hear screams. People were running around the decks. I really thought the ship was going down because we had been in such terrible storms."

Michael Howell, 47, of Loxwood, West Sussex, who was on the ship with his wife and two children, said: "There was one hell of a shudder and all the lights went out. It was half an hour before we were told what had happened, and some passengers, particularly the older folk, did start to panic. They were running around in lifejackets and becoming hysterical."

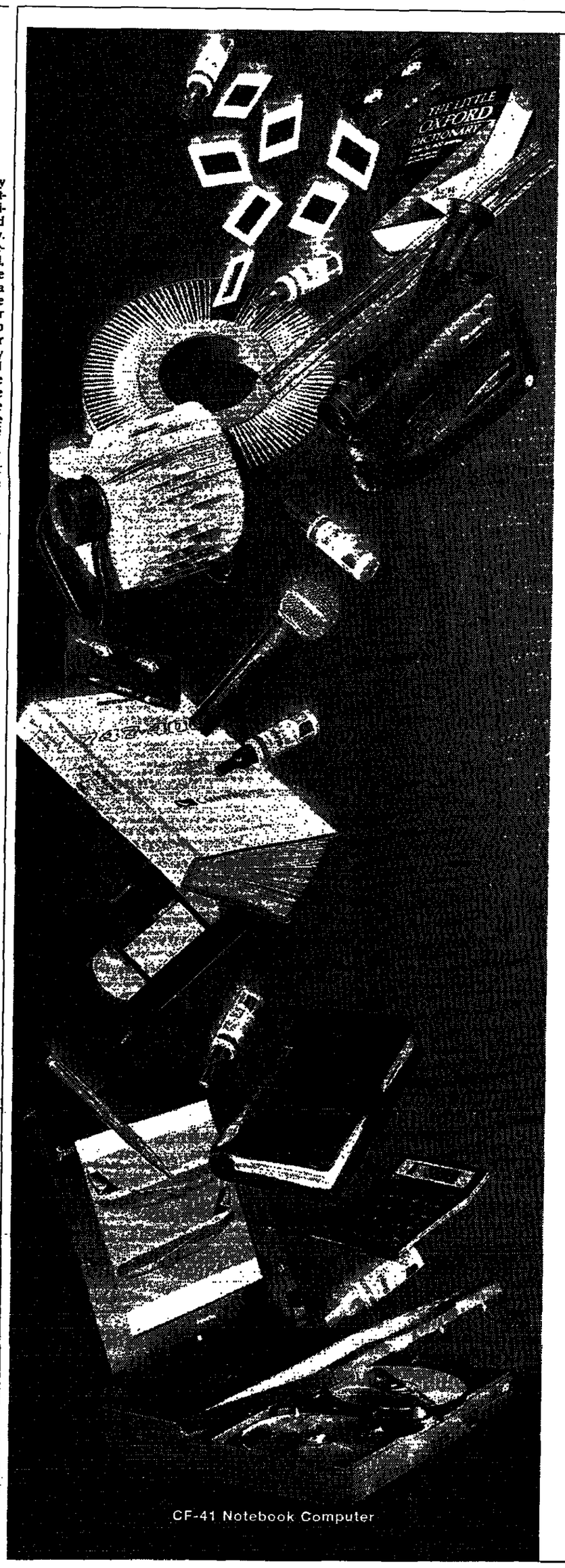
James Donnelly, 54, of Salford, Greater Manchester, said: "We had heard about the *Achille Lauro* and we got our lifejackets out and prepared ourselves for the worst."

P&O said: "Passengers were alerted to the power failure but the captain did not consider the stage was reached where emergency procedures were necessary as there was no immediate danger." Once the engines stopped, an emergency generator restored communications and lighting to public areas but not to the cabins.



Nearly 2,500 passengers and crew were on *Canberra*

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Charity worker awarded record damages

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

AN ACCIDENT victim who was nominated as a Scottish Woman of the Year for her charity work received the highest damages award paid in Scotland yesterday after being paralysed in a road crash.

Elizabeth Martin, 44, from Port of Menteith, Central, was awarded £1.6 million in personal damages at the Court of Session in Edinburgh. She was left wheelchair-bound and with limited movement after a lorry hit the back of her stationary car, which had broken down on the A84 near Callander in February 1991.

The handbrake on her car had failed and its wheels had locked. Miss Martin switched on the hazard lights and was waiting for help when Arthur Munro, from Kilsyth, Strathclyde, drove into the car.

Miss Martin, who formerly worked as a control operator for Strathclyde Fire Brigade, sued Mr Munro's employer, the haulage contractor James and Andrew Chapman, of Bishopbriggs near Glasgow. The firm admitted liability, but argued that her initial claim for £3.5 million was excessive.

Miss Martin, who now lives in sheltered accommodation in St Ninians, Stirling, was paralysed apart from limited neck and shoulder movement and her life expectancy has been reduced. She is cared for by a team of three, and half the total award is for her future care.

In his judgment Lord Penrose said that Miss Martin suffered pain "from waking to sleeping". He added that she had kept up her fund-raising work for a number of charities after the accident and had been nominated for the Scottish Woman of the Year award in 1992.

Freud becomes first contemporary artist to be subject of export licence

Export delay gives Britain chance to buy 'new master'

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH institutions have eight weeks to prevent a painting by Lucian Freud going out of the country. It is the first work by a contemporary artist to be subject to an export licence.

Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, has deferred a decision on the licence application for *The Painter's Room*, which was bought by an anonymous collector at Sotheby's in June. The painting is an enigmatic image with incongruous motifs: a stuffed zebra head, a shabby sofa and a wilting potted palm. The image dates from 1943, when the artist was 21. Although early, it is seen as a powerful work, an interior charged with atmosphere.

The artist, a modern master whose studies of the human figure dissect both bodies and minds, has joined the list of Old Masters whose works are so important to the nation that their export is delayed — or, as in the case of Canova's *Three Graces* — stopped altogether.

Would-be buyers must match the recommended price of £515,812.50. If there is a serious intention to raise the funds, the deferral period could be extended from February 1 until after April 1.

Simon Wilson, curator of interpretation at the Tate Gallery, said: "It's great that a contemporary artist is being treated on a par with the Old Masters because he *is* a modern Old Master. This is tremendously good news from the point of view of national collections."

George Levy, a leading dealer, also welcomed the news, saying that if Britain lost such works now, in years to come people would wonder why their export was not stopped.

Ivor Braka, the dealer in 20th-century art, said: "This highlights that a work doesn't have to be old to be important. It also highlights the nonsense of the sanction of age, that an item is only an heritage item if it's 50 years old."

He questioned why, for example, a work as important as Stanley Spencer's *Crucifixion* was able to sail through its licence application, enabling him to export it across the world with no questions asked.

Freud, a reclusive artist who was born in Berlin in 1922, is said to charge so much for his paintings that no British gallery can afford to represent him. His auction record price is the £600,000 paid for *Man Smoking*, 1956-58, at Sotheby's in 1990.

The artist's main dealer is the Acquavella Gallery in New York, which specialises in Impressionist and modern pictures. That Bill Acquavella chose to represent a contemporary artist speaks volumes about Freud's standing. Tobias Meyer, head of contemporary art at Sotheby's Europe, said Freud was more sought-after since being taken up by the gallery.

The Tate has 18 Freuds in its collection. Mr Wilson said that *The Painter's Room* would complement the gallery's earliest painting by him, a 1946 self-portrait. "It would be an extremely interesting work to have with that self-portrait, particularly as it is a kind of self-portrait."

£6.7m for BR

A collection of paintings from the British Rail Pension Fund raised £6,762,700 yesterday, nearly £2 million over estimate, at a Sotheby's auction in London. A landscape by Meindert Hobbema, a 17th-century Dutch master, sold to an anonymous buyer for £3,741,500.



Lucian Freud's *The Painter's Room*, for which British buyers must match the £515,812 recommended price

Flea market find is work of Van Gogh

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PAINTING abandoned in an attic as worthless after being bought at a French flea market has been identified as the work of Van Gogh.

"It's a very exciting find," a spokeswoman for the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam said. No value has been put on the unframed canvas, which was bought at a market in Reims soon after World War Two.

The oil painting has kept its original rich colours because it was stored in the dark and was unvarnished. "The wonderful thing is that it was thought to be worthless, so it's kept a beautiful clarity," the spokeswoman said.

It was authenticated after the anonymous owner visited the Van Gogh museum and was alerted to the possibility that the canvas could be by the Dutch artist. The owner contacted Walter Feilchenfeldt, a Swiss art dealer and Van Gogh expert, and the museum later officially established the authenticity. It will be exhibited at the museum from today until the end of next year.

The 23 by 17in painting dates from Van Gogh's stay in Paris in 1886-88, when he was trying to master the bright colours of the Impressionist school. It has a dark red-brown background, throwing forward a dark blue vase and mainly bright white flowers.

Van Gogh committed suicide at the age of 37 in France in 1890. He sold only one painting while he was alive, but his work now fetches multimillion-dollar prices at auctions.



The Van Gogh, named *Still Life (vase with flowers)*

Policeman accused of harassment

Seven policewomen from Newcastle upon Tyne allege they were sexually harassed by a sergeant who was suspended from the Northumbria force in August after claims that he had raped a probationary policewoman. The rape charge has been dropped, but the 35-year-old officer will remain suspended pending an internal inquiry.

Drugs airdrop

Two men were jailed for conspiring to smuggle almost £500,000 of drugs dropped from a plane into rural Kent. James Waters, 48, of Consett, Co Durham, was given eight years and Christopher Rogers, 48, of Consett, seven years.

Shocking crime

An anti-crime scheme in Cleveland aims to shock offenders with videos showing the misery caused to their victims. They include a battered pensioner telling her story.

Murder link

Christopher Adshead, 19, found murdered in Greater Manchester on Tuesday, was wanted for questioning over a fatal stabbing two days earlier, police said.

Pedestrian dies

Patricia Nesbitt, 52, died in hospital the day after being crushed against a wall by a runaway trailer that had broken loose from a lorry in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Uniform theft

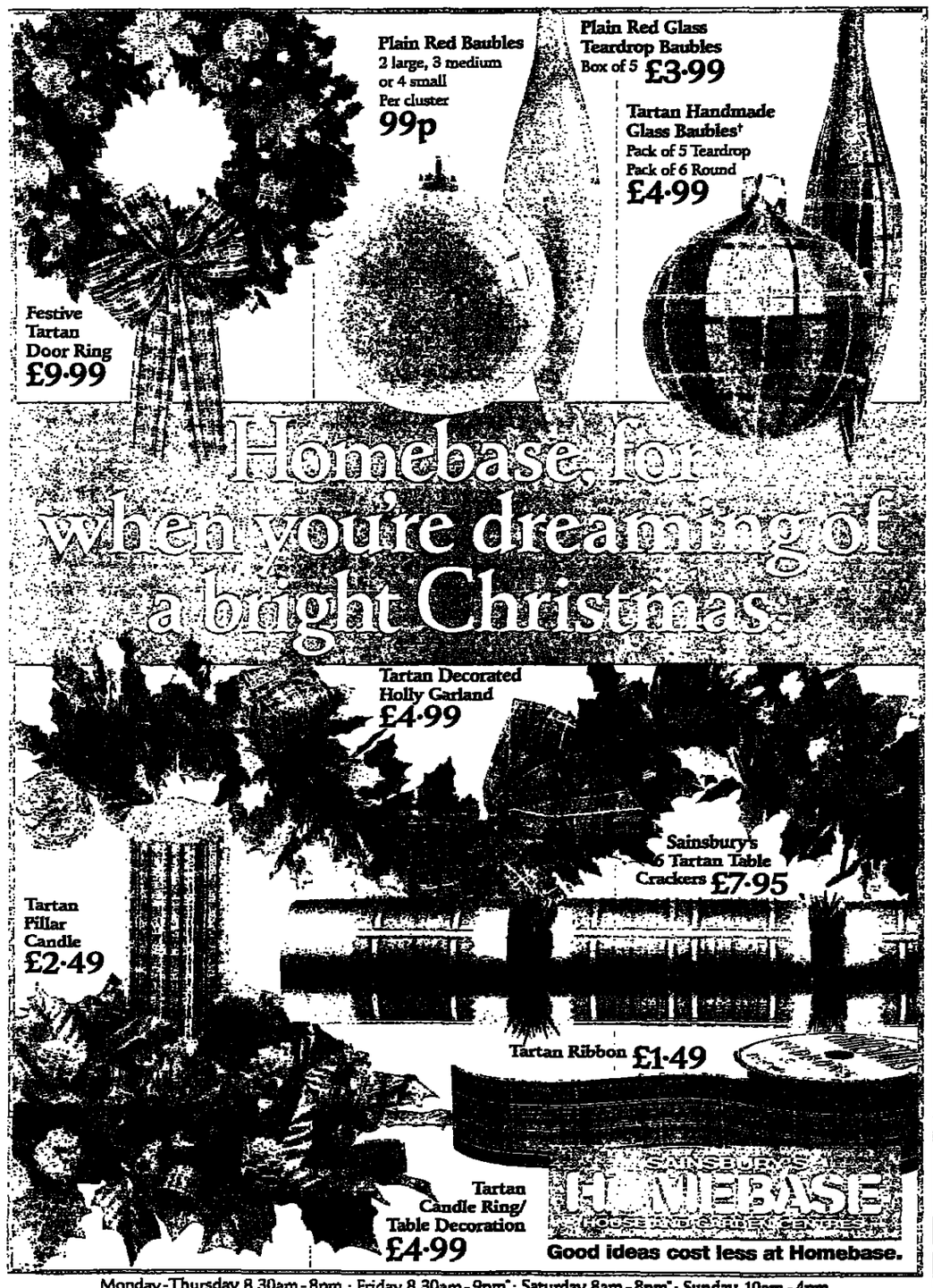
Thieves stole a Metropolitan Police sergeant's uniform after breaking into his car in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Police warned people to beware of bogus officers.

Lost and found

A spaniel that disappeared from her home near Exeter six months ago has been found 100 miles away at St Austell, Cornwall, thanks to an identification microchip.

Timely pay rise

John Thoroughgood, a parish council clerk who has been taking the minutes at meetings in Lindsey, Suffolk, for the past 47 years, has had his salary doubled to £4 a year.



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Mackay aims to restrict lawyers' role in divorce

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

WARRING couples will be expected to sort out their problems face to face through a neutral third party or mediator under the Government's proposals to reform divorce laws, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said he did not want mediators to replace lawyers entirely but he wanted legal advice to become secondary.

"I have said on a number of occasions that I am concerned about the presumption that only lawyers can negotiate on behalf of the parties in a matrimonial dispute," he told the annual general meeting of National Family Mediation in London.

He said he would prefer the presumption to be that couples should negotiate face to face with the help of a neutral third party, unless their problems were obviously unsuited to this process. "It may be that legal advice will be needed in support of the mediation process," he said. "But we currently have a situation in which mediation is used as an adjunct to lawyer-led negotiations, and often only when those negotiatons have reached an impasse." Lord Mackay added that he would like to see legal advice being used "in support of mediated negotiations when it is necessary".

Mediation is expected to feature prominently in the Government's divorce reform proposals, although the funding of any network of mediators is still uncertain. A Green Paper on divorce reform was published a year ago and a White Paper is expected next year.

Lord Mackay ruled out any funding for such a network yesterday. He said he did not envisage public money being paid directly to local agencies for the time being. But he has approved a small grant to enable the National Family Mediation, a national charity made up of 60 family mediation services, to establish a quality assurance scheme. This would enable the organisation to check that services met co-ordinated national standards.

"I do believe that local agencies will need to be able to satisfy appropriate criteria for quality of service in order to qualify for funding."

The association said that with the possibility of a big increase in mediation, it was concerned to maintain standards and ensure that people without any experience of family mediation did not set up as mediators.

Mediation, Lord Mackay said yesterday, was not "marriage guidance counselling. The purpose is rather to help couples to reach a joint decision about their future apart, with the help of an independent and neutral third party."



Lord Mackay: proposes neutral third party

US hints at open-door policy on Sinn Fein

From Ian Brodie in Washington

THE Clinton Administration appeared to be wavering over its ban on Gerry Adams raising funds for Sinn Fein in America yesterday. The Sinn Fein leader claimed the issue would be resolved to everyone's satisfaction after he was accorded a White House meeting with Anthony Lake, President Clinton's national security adviser.

His assurance seemed to gain some support from a senior administration official who told reporters that a lifting of the ban could not be ruled out.

Until now US officials have always insisted that Mr Adams must pledge that no money will go to buy IRA guns. He has impressed US officials by offering to set up a fundraising group in New York that would invite prominent political and corporate figures onto its board. The non-profit corporation, to be called Friends of Sinn Fein Inc, would offer legal guarantees that no contributions would be used for weapons.

MIKE THEILER



Gerry Adams leaving the White House yesterday after his meeting

Vehement critic of IRA seeks to lead Dublin coalition

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Ireland's opposition parties met yesterday to discuss the formation of a coalition government after the collapse of talks between Labour and Fianna Fail.

The party heads said they had a responsibility to form an administration after nearly a month of inertia in Dublin which has stalled the Northern Ireland peace process. The coalition, which would be headed by Fine Gael and the Labour Party, would have to include at least one of the two smaller parties in the Irish Parliament.

Sinn Fein, which says that it will work with whatever government is formed, will be alarmed at the prospect of John Bruton, the leader of Fine Gael, becoming Prime Minister. He has been vehemently critical of Sinn Fein and the IRA. Republicans regard him as a Unionist.

Ivan Yates, a Fine Gael member of the Dail, said there was a good chance of forming a "rainbow coalition". Brendan Howlin, the former Labour Health Minister, said he did not believe there were fundamental differences between Labour and Fine Gael.

Mr Bruton, 47, is expected to be elected Prime Minister if the negotiations are successful. His party has 47 of the 166 seats in the Dail to Labour's 33. Both parties would need the support of the Progressive Democrats' eight MPs or the six MPs from the Democratic Left to form a government.

Despite the optimistic remarks by senior Labour and Fine Gael MPs, a "rainbow coalition" would be an unnatural alliance. Labour turned down the chance to form a coalition with Fine Gael after the last election in November 1992 and Dick Spring, the Labour leader, has a strained relationship with Mr Bruton. The two parties have vastly different political agendas in social and economic areas.

If Fine Gael and Labour fail to reach agreement there will be a general election, probably in the new year.

Foxhounds master loses libel action

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MASTER of Foxhounds has lost his libel action against a huntsman who accused him of cruelty. Clifford Pellow, a former member of the Tredegar Farmers Hunt in South Wales, had claimed Howard Jones, the huntmaster, knew that foxes were being put in bags before being released to hounds.

Mr Jones, 65, from Lower Machen, Gwent, said the allegations, made at a House of Commons press conference in 1991, were unfounded and untrue. He demanded damages from Mr Pellow, of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, and the League Against Cruel Sports — co-defendants in the action.

But the jury at Cardiff High Court found in favour of Mr Pellow, 51, and the League Against Cruel Sports and awarded them costs. After the hearing Mr Jones's solicitor, Matthew Knight, said they were considering an appeal.

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'They took everything. We were scared for our lives'

Aid Briton tells of Unita attack

BY JOHN YOUNG

LAST September Anne Smith, a nurse from Needham Market, Suffolk, arrived in Angola on a six-month contract with the Red Cross to manage a feeding centre for malnourished children. Two months later, on her 37th birthday, she was flown back to Britain after the society's headquarters in the town of Huambo was looted and largely destroyed by Unita rebels.

"The town was a rebel stronghold and early in November we heard reports that government troops were advancing," Ms Smith said yesterday. "There were MiG fighters flying overhead and, as things got worse, we were advised that for security reasons we should move out of our houses into the Red Cross compound.

"The building had a large red cross painted on the roof and we hoped the troops would respect it. Several members of other aid groups joined us and, although there were more than 50 of us eating and sleeping under one roof, there were no problems at first.

"But on November 7 a bunch of Unita troops came into the compound. A lot of them were drunk and they started shooting and demanded that we hand over our vehicles. There were about 20 Land Cruisers and four trucks belonging to various aid organisations.

"The next morning they arrrived in waves and took the vehicles. If they couldn't find the keys they broke their way in and hot-wired them. I don't think many of them knew how to drive. The two or three that they couldn't start they smashed to bits. That day, the 8th, was the worst. We were all huddled in the corridor while the Unita men looted the place.

"They took absolutely everything, all our pharmacy store, even the toilets. Fortunately we managed to persuade them not to smash the radio room; if we had been left without radio contact, we would have been very frightened. We were left with nothing except the clothes we stood in, half a dozen mattresses and a few blankets. It was devastating. We were scared for our lives."

The Red Cross in Geneva was anxious to get them out as soon as possible but was unable to gain permission for an aircraft to land. The aid workers barricaded themselves into the building, and the next day government troops entered the town.

"There was more looting, which was very depressing because we hoped this would be the end of it. Eventually a senior officer calmed the men down and used our radio to contact Luanda, the Angolan capital, and was told to look after us.

Three days later the aid workers were flown to Luanda and Ms Smith was put on a flight to London after her stolen passport was replaced.

Ms Smith, who trained at the Royal London Hospital and did paediatrics at Guy's, had twice before worked in Africa: for the Save the Children Fund in Uganda at the height of the civil war, and last year for the Red Cross in Somalia, from which she also had to be evacuated. But despite her experiences, she hopes to return. "I realise that so many people still desperately need our help, and I want to do my part."

THE TIMES Christmas Appeal in aid of BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

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THE TIMES Christmas Appeal in aid of BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

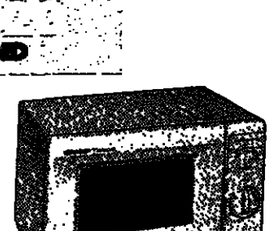
JOHN McLELLAN



Anne Smith helps a Somali women with her weaving on a previous mission

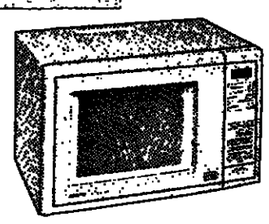
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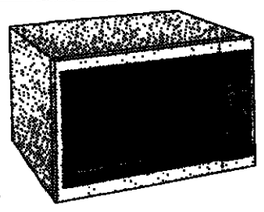
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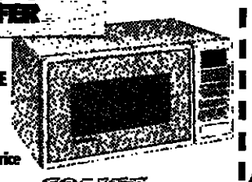
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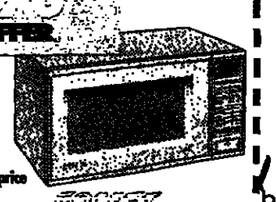


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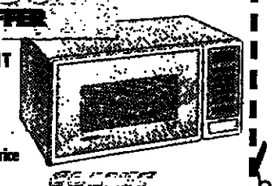


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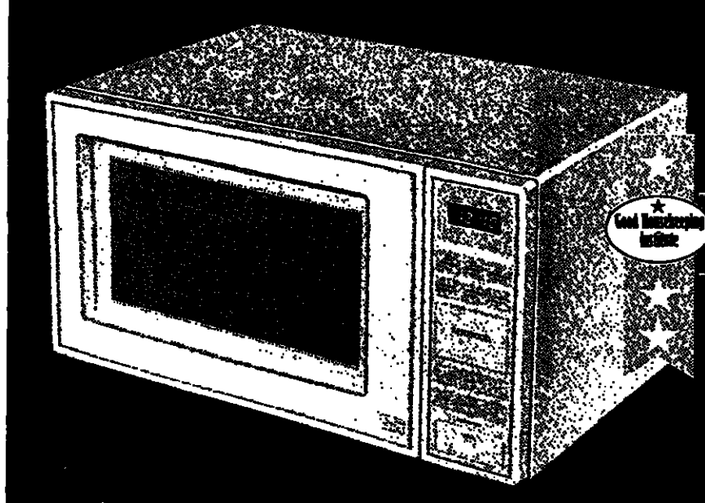


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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Are you top of the class?

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In each of the hands below you have already made one bid, and are considering your second. Within the confines of what you have said so far, which is the better hand?

1 ♠A83 ♥Q83 ♦AKQ ♣KQ63

You open Two No-trumps and your partner replies Three Spades.

2 ♠842 ♥K10763 ♦K4 ♣632

Your partner opens One Heart, you bid Two Hearts, and your partner bids Three Diamonds.

Answer: Hand 2 is better. Obviously I would not have posed the question in the way I did if the answer was hand 1. But there is an instructive point here.

When you pick up hand 1 of course you are pleased. Fewer than 2 per cent of hands have as many as 20 high card points. But as soon as you bid Two No Trumps, all that is in the past.

Now you must consider your hand's position in the class of hands *that are worth a Two-No trump opening*.

Even before your partner bid Three Spades your hand was near the bottom of that class — 20 points when it might have had 22, no intermediate cards, an inflexible holding in diamonds.

And when your partner replies Three Spades, your high card pattern is not ideal — reversing your spade and heart holdings would improve your hand. A good player would bid Four Spades over Three Spades, but would not be surprised if his partner went down.

Bad players are quite capable of driving to Six Spades over the Three Spades response. "Partner, I had 20 points." Your partner already knows that. Don't tell him the same story twice: warn him that you have a minimum Two No-Trump opener by signing off in Four Spades.

Hand 2 by contrast is excellent for the bidding so far. A raise to Two Hearts shows about 5-9 points; with no other bidding, hand 2 is above halfway in the class in that it has got five trumps when it might have three, and it has two crisp kings. But when partner shows a second suit of diamonds, the hand leaps to the top of the class — king doubleton along with five trumps is an ideal holding for consolidating the opener's diamonds. It is clear to bid Four Hearts over Three Diamonds, and to jump to Six Hearts if partner makes a slam try over Four Hearts.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov crushed

As Holland and the Russian 'B' team continue to lead in the Chess olympiad in Moscow, the Russian 'A' team, with the world champion Garry Kasparov at its head, is languishing in the doldrums.

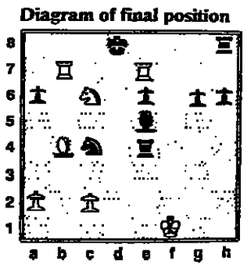
White: Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria)
Black: Garry Kasparov (Russia 'A')
Moscow olympiad, December 1994

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	e6
7	g4	h6
8	f4	Nc6
9	Be2	a5
10	Nf5	g6
11	Ng3	exf4
12	Bxf4	Be6
13	Rf1	Rc8
14	h3	Qb6
15	Qd2	Bg7
16	Bxd6	Nxg4
17	Bxg4	Qxb2
18	e5	Nxe5
19	Rb1	Qxc3
20	Qxc3	Rxc3
21	Bxe6	bxe6
22	Rxb7	Nc4
23	Bb4	Re3+
24	Ne2	Be5
25	Rf7	Rxh3
26	Nd4	Re3+
27	Kf1	Re4
28	Rfe7+	Kd8
29	Nc6+	Black resigns

After 29 ... Kc8 30 Na7+ Kd8 31 Rbd7 is checkmate

Diagram of final position



Women's competition

In the parallel women's competition in Moscow, 16-year-old Harriet Hunt from Oxford has won four games in a row.

White: Harriet Hunt (England)
Black: Strutinskaya (Russia 'B')
Moscow olympiad, December 1994

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e5
6	Bb5+	Nbd7
7	Nf5	a6
8	Ba4	b5
9	Bb3	Nb6
10	Bg5	Bxf5
11	exf5	Be7
12	0-0	Qc7
13	a4	b4
14	Bxf6	Bxf6
15	Ne4	Rd8
16	a5	Nc8
17	Qg4	Kf8
18	Nxf6	gxf6
19	Qxb4	Rg8
20	Qh4	Ke7
21	Bd5	Rg7
22	c4	Na7
23	Rfe1	Rb8
24	Qh6	Rbg8
25	Qe3	Rb8
26	Qh6	Rbg8
27	f4	Nc6
28	c5	Qe7
29	Rac1	Nb4
30	Be4	Rg4
31	Kh1	Rd8
32	cxd6+	Ke8
33	Qxf6	Black resigns

Winning Move, page 48

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'I think I have paid my debt to society. I ask people to judge me as I am now'

Hindley asks for mercy after 28 years in prison

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MYRA HINDLEY will break a seven-year public silence tonight to plead that she has paid her debt to society after spending almost 30 years in prison for her part in the Moors Murders.

She will plead with the public and the Home Secretary to judge her as she is now and not as she was in 1965 when she and her lover, Ian Brady, killed four children in Greater Manchester.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is currently considering how long Hindley, 54, should spend in jail. He and his advisers are expected to announce within the next few weeks that she and about 20 other notorious murderers will never be released.

Hindley sent her personally signed statement to the producers of *Witness*, a programme to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. The statement says: "Words are inadequate to express my deep sorrow and remorse for the crimes I have committed, and the pain they have caused. But after 30 years in prison, I think I have paid my debt to society and atoned for my crimes. I ask people to judge me as I am now and not as I was then.

"Dreadful as my crimes were, I hope that the Home Secretary will take account of the very unusual circumstances in which I became involved in those crimes. I explained this to the police fully in 1987, and my solicitor has set it out in a recent letter to the Home Secretary."

A House of Lords judgment requires the Home Secretary to tell prisoners given mandatory life sentences the minimum term they must serve. He must also give a reason if his recommendation is different to that suggested by the trial judge.

Since the House of Lord ruling that lifers must be told their tariff, the Home Office has introduced a further criterion that can be implemented after the minimum term has been served. This allows the Home Secretary to detain a lifer on the grounds that "the public might not find his or her release acceptable".

Mr Howard said yesterday that there were a number of prisoners who would be in jail for the rest of their lives. In a written Commons answer, he said that their cases would be reviewed after ten years, 25 years and every five years thereafter. In future all inmates serving a mandatory life sentence will have their case reviewed after ten years, and then three years before the tariff expires or at 25 years. Mr Howard told MPs that the right to automatic review at 17 years had been abolished.

The strength of public feeling against Hindley's release, and the political controversy it might cause, are believed to be the main reasons for her remaining in Cookham Wood prison near Rochester, Kent. In tonight's programme members of the public strongly oppose her release, as do relatives of the dead children, who say she must remain in jail for life.

Danny Kilbride, the brother of one of the victims, tells *Witness* that he would kill her if she were let out. "I am not violent but something like that would make me violent. If I ever get the chance I would do her, and the rest of my family would. If I actually come face to face with Myra Hindley she is just dead."

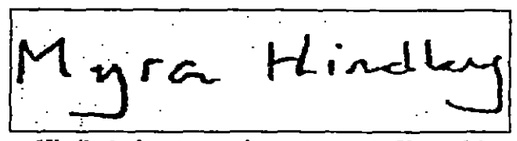
Hindley's supporters argue that she is the victim of an injustice because she is not being treated similarly to other lifers, many of whom serve only 14 or 16 years. The Earl of Longford says: "She is a political prisoner. She is there because the government of either party are frightened of unpopularity if they release her. She is living out a cruel fate imposed on her by cowardly politicians."

Hindley and Brady were jailed for life in 1966 for the killings of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. Brady also murdered John Kilbride, 12, and Hindley was convicted as an accessory. Both confessed in 1988 to the murders of Pauline Reade, 16, and Keith Bennett, 12.

The confession led to a police search for the bodies on Saddleworth Moor near Oldham. Pauline Reade was found, still in the party dress she had been wearing when she disappeared more than 25 years earlier. Police called off the search without finding Keith Bennett.

Pauline Reade was the first victim, in July 1963, when she was ambushed. Four months later John Kilbride was lured from a street market in Ashton-under-Lyme. Lesley Ann Downey was abducted on Boxing Day 1964 and Edward Evans was killed with an axe.

Brady is in Ashworth top-security hospital, Merseyside, and says he does not wish to be considered for parole.


Myra Hindley

Hindley's signature on her statement to Channel 4


Myra Hindley in 1966, when she was convicted of murdering four children

Why women turn to THE TIMES

'I initially switched to *The Times* because of its price but I was very impressed with what I found'

Jane Voller, 44, public relations manager



'The paper is presented in a very readable format, the news pages are clear and informative and the business section is impressive. I particularly enjoy reading Simon Jenkins and Matthew Parris'

More women are making *The Times* their daily newspaper. From May to October this year, female readership increased by 31 per cent, a larger gain than any other national newspaper

Parishioners protest over sale of historic parsonages

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of parishioners has launched a campaign to save Britain's historic parsonages claiming that the buildings have become an endangered species as sales to laity have grown.

Noël Riley, secretary of Save our Parsonages, said: "The Church of England has been selling off its historic rectories and vicarages for many years, often against the wishes both of parishioners and individual clergy. Such asset-stripping flies in the face of good conservation practice, which encourages the continued use of old buildings for their original purpose whenever possible."

The Church Commissioners said that in the past decade 1,275 parsonages had been sold and 1,100 had been replaced by more modern buildings.

Ms Riley said that the smaller, post-war parsonages were inadequate for the social and parochial needs of modern incumbents, who had much larger benefices. "A group of four or five parishes needs a place to hold meetings, needs which are very often better met by old spacious parsonages."

The Church Commissioners defended the sales, and said that the Church still owned about 8,000 parsonages. A spokesman said: "These sales are because the buildings are unsuitable for modern use of the clergy. It is a process of renewal, replacement and review."

Ms Riley's society, based in Sudbury, Suffolk, aims to keep a register of parsonages under threat of sale against the wishes of the parishes, and to support efforts to keep them in church use.

Belchamp Otten Rectory in Essex is one such example. The diocese of Chelmsford wants to sell the rectory because it believes it is unsuitable, but parishioners have opposed the sale. They say that the parsonage is not too large, although it needs modernising.

Ms Riley said: "This small village has never had its own village hall and the rectory has traditionally provided a focal point for all kinds of parish gatherings."


Sale opposed: Belchamp Otten Rectory in Essex

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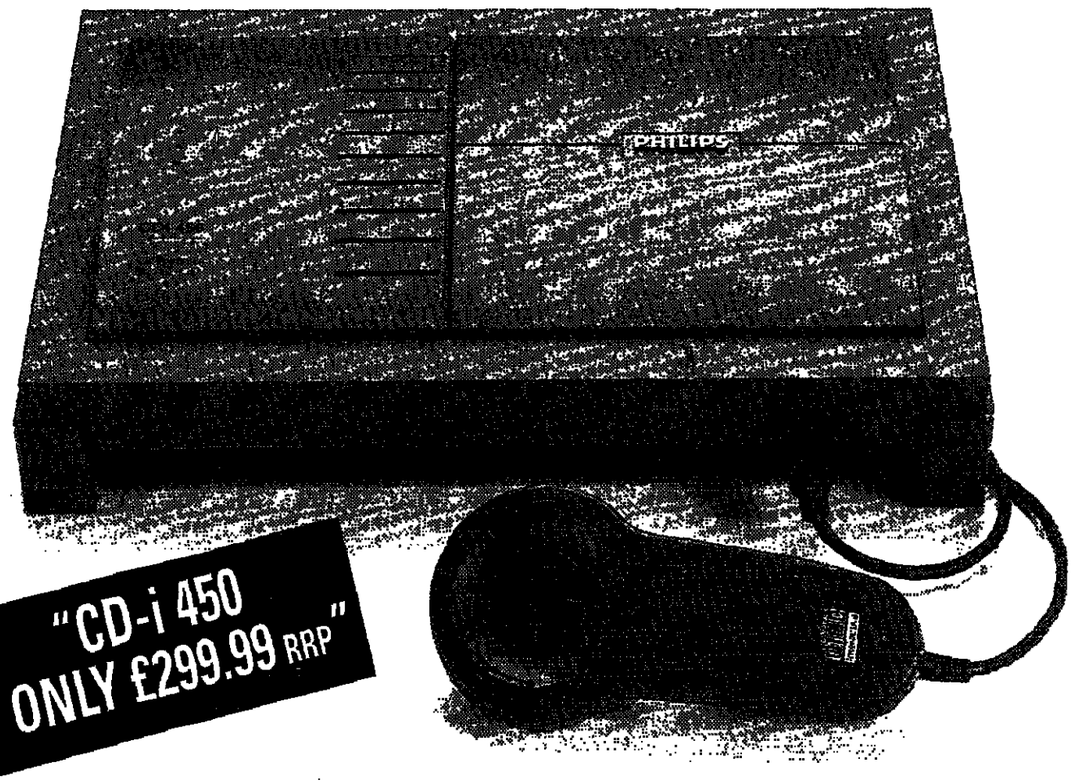
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Clarke may risk new VAT measures to raise £850m shortfall

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE has many options for closing the £850 million gap left by his decision to abandon the second phase of VAT on domestic fuel.

The amount is not large on the scale of the Government's finances; yesterday the Bank of England managed easily to sell £2 billion in government bonds to markets that were in deep confusion after a week of unprecedented disarray for the Government. Presentation is another matter. Extra taxes, provided they were not politically suicidal, or spending cuts would please the City, which does not want to see the Government borrow more to plug the gap. The Chancellor's assurance on Tuesday evening that his plans for cutting the government deficit would not be affected ensured some calm even before interest rates were raised.

He could seek £850 million of extra spending cuts. But Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said this might not come across well. "Having emphasised what a marvellous job the Government had done in delivering such a tough package of spending cuts, it would be difficult to suddenly find some more. People might think that the Chancellor had been disingenuous."

Taxes provide fertile ground. One option widely floated in the hours before the vote was the extension of VAT on existing items from 17.5 per cent to 18 per cent, which would net the Chancellor more than £1.2 billion. Tax experts, however, said yesterday that this would incur considerable administrative costs, with price changes across a wide range of goods.

More important is whether even a tough character such as Mr Clarke would dare to raise the spectre of VAT again, risking another lost vote in the Commons and more mistrust among the electorate and the financial markets. The other practical argument against raising more from VAT is that increases in indirect taxes mean higher inflation. The single bright spot for the Chancellor in the VAT defeat was that, come April, inflation will be 0.44 per cent lower than it would otherwise have been.

The effect on inflation is also an argument against increasing excise duty on petrol, beer or cigarettes, but this is still one of the simple routes that the Chancellor could take. Raising duty on petrol would enhance the Government's green credentials, and a rise on cigarettes would be easy to defend because of health concern. The Chancellor could raise exactly what he needs by, for example, putting 2p on a litre of petrol and 5p on 20 cigarettes.

Mr Clarke may, however, decide to maximise his unexpected bonus on inflation by opting for measures that would not affect prices. He could, for example, continue to whittle away the married couples' allowance or mortgage interest tax relief, restricting them from the 15 per cent implemented in last week's Budget to only 10 per cent. Either would bring in about £1 billion.

One option that is unlikely today, after gibes from the Labour frontbench on Tuesday night, is a reversal of the Budget cut in excise duty on champagne. One that may be more likely, having endured two mornings of critical headlines, is levying VAT on books and newspapers. A tempting way to raise £1 billion?

Whips blamed for scale of victory by Tory rebels

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS MPs filed into the division lobbies on Tuesday night, the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet ministers were unaware that they was going to lose by such a clear margin.

Minutes before the vote John Major and Kenneth Clarke had been warned by the whips that the Government could go down by one or two votes. But the size of the defeat — with 15 Tory MPs defying the Government, which lost by eight votes — came as a shock.

A Labour MP watching from the Opposition benches said that Mr Major "seemed quite cheerful and was looking at us straight in the eye, as he always does. Then one of the whips came up to him and he went quite grey and then almost white."

The only light relief came when Mr Major was told that Toby Jessel, a Tory MP, had locked himself in the lavatory of the Labour division lobby after he had gone into the lobby by mistake.

Labour MPs whooped with glee in extraordinary scenes in the Commons when the vote was announced. One MP, Dennis Canavan, was so excited that he had to be restrained by Labour whips when he tried to embrace one of the tellers.

Mr Major had to wait, glum-faced, for a series of votes before he could vent his anger in the privacy of a meeting with the chief whip, Richard Ryder, the Chancellor and Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Treasury Secretary.

The ministers discussed the contingency statement that Mr Clarke was about to deliver, announcing that he would drop plans to increase VAT on fuel. The Prime Minister was said to be furious at the behaviour of eight of the nine whipless rebels.

He was later witnessed by an MP emerging from Mr Ryder's office ashen-faced. He is said to have snapped at a journalist: "Don't waste my time." Hours earlier Mr Clarke was hoping he had won round enough rebels to turn possible defeat into victory. Over whisky and water in his rooms behind the Speaker's chair in the Commons, he had told a dozen MPs that he would concede to demands for a £120 million extra compenstion package.

However, MPs attending the meeting were convinced that the Chancellor suspected the game was up. "He was in his usual combative mood," said one VAT rebel. "He enjoys an argument and he put his views forcefully. But none of us were taken in by his threat that the Budget would be jeopardised or that other tax measures would be less acceptable.

"He didn't seem that convinced himself. I think he knew then the Government was heading for defeat and he had nothing to lose by offering extra money."

Sources close to the Chancellor said that he was confident of a narrow victory on the back of his £100 million package. "He gave the rebels what they has been asking for. There had been a number of demands for better compensation and improved home insulation in speeches in the last few days."

No other offers were on the table, the source said. "The logic was that the MPs had no reason left to rebel."

Yesterday morning the recriminations began. Some MPs blamed the whips for failing to keep tabs on the recalcitrant Euro rebels. Senior backbenchers argued that the whips had too readily accepted public statements by MPs such as Teresa Gorman and Tony Marlow that they would support the Government.

But government sources argued that many of the Euro-rebels had never given any signal that they would vote against VAT on fuel. The whips were also in a difficult position because they have no official contact with MPs from whom the whip has been withdrawn.

Mr Major opened the damage limitation exercise at a breakfast meeting at the Ritz with business managers. He claimed that the arguments about VAT had been misinterpreted and that the great gainer from last night was the ordinary taxpayer rather than the poor pensioner. He reassured the City that the Chancellor would balance the books and "repair the fiscal position" in his statement today. Mr Clarke met Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, and agreed to half a percentage point rise in interest rates.

Later in the morning the Chancellor met Mr Major at Downing Street to discuss the events of Tuesday night and today's statement. An hour later, Mr Major called the Government whips over from the Commons.

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

MP does a double take

A MISTAKE was made in the official recording of the VAT vote. The error, involving two MPs with the same surname but on opposite sides of the Commons, made no difference to the result.

A Conservative who had backed the Government, Ian Bruce (Dorset South), pointed out in the Commons yesterday that he was recorded on the division lists and in Hansard as having voted in both the aye and the no lobbies. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon, who voted with the Opposition, did not appear on either list.

SIMON WALKER



Mr Clarke leaving the BBC radio studio in central London yesterday before a meeting at the Bank of England

Howe pleads for collective effort to bolster economic recovery

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVES moved swiftly yesterday to try to patch up divisions as they surveyed the wreckage caused by the Government's defeat on VAT.

Lord Howe of Aberavon called on the party to "get a grip" of itself and urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to keep control of his Budget.

Lord Howe acknowledged that Tuesday's defeat was "very serious", but the problems could be tackled "if the party recaptures its collective good sense and remembers the need for the party to work together under its existing leadership.

"It is of the utmost importance that the Conservative Parliamentary Party should once again remember why it is there, which is essentially to sustain a government that is capable of delivering, and is delivering, economic recovery."

Speaking on Radio 4's *World at One*, he suggested the Government's Budget problems could be traced back to the failure of the poll tax but counselled against a lengthy inquest.

John Wilkinson, Tory MP for Ruislip Northwood, who lost the whip after rebelling over last week's Bill to increase payments to the European Union, explained why he had abstained. "It was a proposed addition to an already unpopular tax. To double VAT on domestic fuel would have been something that most of the British people would have abominated and I think we could have lost the next general election if we had imposed the addition proposed by the Government," he said.



Lord Howe: urged MPs to support leadership

He insisted he had not acted out of revenge for having the whip withdrawn. "If you have the whip withdrawn you are more likely to view the issues on their merits." He said the man in the street would be "absolutely delighted" at the vote and believe Parliament was in tune with the people.

Kenneth Baker, the former Tory party chairman, repeated his criticism of the Government's decision to withdraw the whip from the rebels but he called for bridges to be built. "Damage there has been, but it's certainly not fatal. The Government isn't going to fall. There isn't going to be an election and there's no economic crisis."

Major pledges to repair damage

BY NEIL BENNETT
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR received a rapturous reception from Britain's business leaders yesterday when he pledged to repair the damage to the Government's finances caused by the defeat over VAT on fuel, and to continue the fight against inflation.

Mr Major defended his Government's attempts to levy VAT on elecricity and gas bills and said that no tax was popular. "I know of no tax which has been so misrepresented in such lurid terms. It is a travesty of reality," he said. He added that the real winners from the Government's failure to impose the full rate of VAT were the rich, including his breakfast-time audience at the Ritz in London.

"We are determined to take no risks with recovery. We will ensure the fiscal position is unaltered despite the mistaken vote last night," he said.

The Prime Minister said that keeping inflation low was vital for the British economy, even though it was unpopular among voters because of the financial austerity the country was suffering. "Low inflation is right but it is not popular. Anyone who thinks inflation is politically popular needs their political bumps felt."

On Europe, he urged his audience to speak up about their support for Britain's place in the European Union. "The debate is being run by a handful of people completely opposed to Europe. It is about time we stopped allowing the argument to be conducted by extremists on both sides while the vast majority in the middle are being swept away."

His audience contained many of the heads of Britain's largest companies. Between them they represented companies valued at £155 billion employing 6 per cent of then workforce. Lord Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, said after Mr Major's speech that it was excellent to see him in fighting form. He urged him to stay on as Prime Minister for another ten years, "or 15 if you like."

Pensioners reap double benefit from tax defeat

BY MARTIN WALLER AND JILL SHERMAN

PENSIONERS will receive a double bonus next April after the Chancellor's announcement that the second VAT rise will not go ahead.

Quarterly electricity bills are expected to drop significantly next spring after pressure from the industry regulator.

The reductions, negotiated last summer, were expected to have been more than wiped out when VAT on fuel rose from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent next April. However, pensioners and all those on benefit will receive extra help with heating next April after Kenneth Clarke's announcement of an extra £20 million for home insulation grants.

This came on top of the £10 million announced in the Budget last week. Treasury sources confirmed yesterday that the extra £20 million, given to buy the vote of Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North, would remain. The £30 million will go to vulnerable groups on benefits and anyone over 60, who can apply for help for loft insulation, pipe lagging and other insulation.

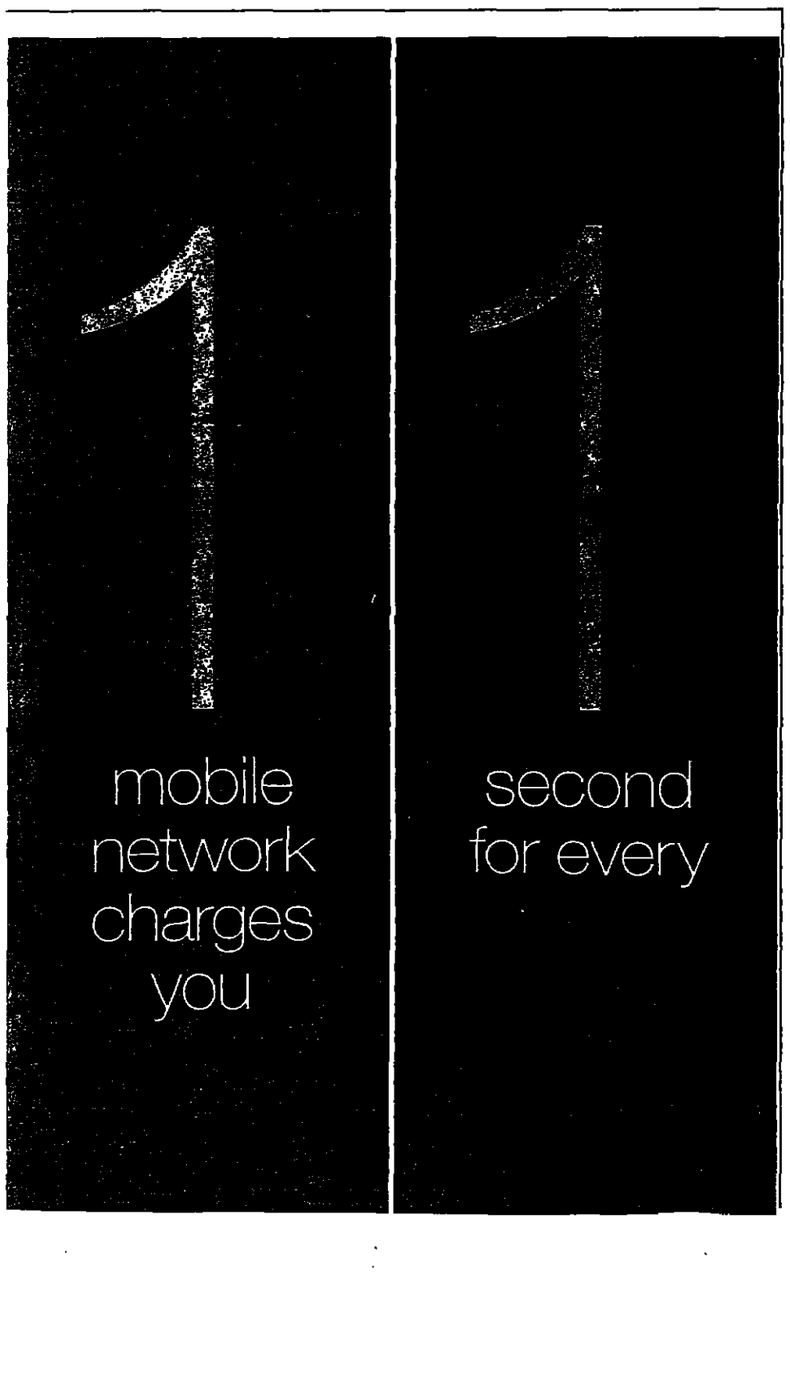
Although other benefits are expected to rise as planned by 2.2 per cent next April, Mr Chancellor is today expected to cancel the remainder of the £650 million compensation package which was to have gone to pensiones and other groups for the second rise.

The Office of Electricity Regulation in August published its latest five-year ruling on the rate at which the industry can raise charges to consumers. The regulator's mathematics suggest that the complex new formulae imposed on the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales from next April will mean an initial reduction of £12 to £16 a year in household electricity bills.

Over the five years from April this will total £70 to £90 per customer. But this would have been more than wiped out by higher VAT charges. At present the average household bill is £270, although the figure varies across England and Wales from £311 in South Wales to £261 in northwest England. A bill of £270 would have attracted almost £26 additional VAT, against the £12 to £16 reduction because of the regulator's action.

A further one-off rebate of £10 to £12 per customer is likely to be handed out next year because of the expected stock market flotation of the National Grid. The network is jointly owned by the English and Welsh companies, and the Government is under pressure to ensure customers benefit along with shareholders when the Grid joins the stock market. It is thought the industry will have to give £250 million to customers.

In Scotland, a £400 annual bill would attract £38 of additional VAT, offset by £9 to £13 in tariff reductions from this year's separate regulatory review. However, the different phasing of price cuts north of the border means the savings to consumers in the next couple of years would eventually have more than offset the proposed VAT increase. The review in Northern Ireland will not take effect until 1997.



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IN PARLIAMENT

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How the 'party within a party' outfoxed opponents with a campaign of disinformation

Outcasts met in secret to plot their revenge

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE ambush that inflicted the crippling VAT defeat was plotted at a secret meeting in an historic corner of the House of Commons.

As Tory Party whips scurried around pressing potential rebels to back the Government, the MPs deprived of the Conservative whip plotted their tactics undisturbed. Eight of the nine MPs ousted from the Tory party met together at 5.30pm, shortly before Kenneth Clarke presented his eleventh-hour compensation package in a private meeting with would-be rebels from within the party.

For most of the whipless dissidents, however, the prospect of compensation had become irrelevant as they finalised their plans for revolt. Meeting in an austere room off Westminster Hall, the rebels could finally speak frankly about their voting intentions after a week of making cryptic public statements.

Since leaving the parliamentary Tory party after last week's European Union Budget vote, the rebels had refused to divulge their voting plans even to their closest Conservative allies. While government whips eagerly awaited the reaction of mainstream Tory rebels to Mr Clarke's compensation offer, they remained unaware of the subplot which was developing among the "outsiders".

As the whipless MPs discussed tactics, it quickly became clear that most of them were prepared to harden their stance in an effort to cause maximum disruption. Of the eight who attended the meeting, only Nicholas Budgen argued against the plan to use the vote as an opportunity to flex their collective muscle. While the MPs insisted that they were not forming an alternative party, their methods in keeping the Tory whips guessing bore the hallmarks of rival political parties determined to outfox their opponents.

Teresa Gorman, the outspoken MP for Billericay, set the mood of the meeting by telling her colleagues that she would abstain from the vote, contradicting her earlier public declarations of support for the VAT measure. Her defiance quickly spread to the male members of the group, most of whom hardened their previous intentions. Tony Marlow, who had once abstained on VAT, decided to oppose the Government, while four other MPs decided to abstain.

Sir Teddy Taylor, Christopher Gill, John Wilkinson and Sir Richard Body each decided to withdraw their support to underline their frustration at the way they had been treated. Richard Shepherd, who had previously voted against the VAT increase, maintained his opposition. Michael Carttiss, another outcast who voted against the package, was not present at the meeting.

While they insist that their tactics were based on principled opposition to VAT rather than a fit of pique, Mr Gill admitted: "Had we been whipped members of the Conservative party, I would have voted with the Government."

The "gentleman's rules" that would-be rebels inform the whips of their intentions collapsed as the gang of nine embarked on a campaign of subtle disinformation and stubborn silence. One minister said: "Their behaviour is just indescribable. If there was ever a chance of these people being brought back into the party in the near future, it has gone now."

Although the rebels emphasise that their ing purpose is to force a rethink on European policies, they have also found collectivity a comfort. "We have had the choice of wondering alone in the wilderness as nine individuals, or having some influence as a group of nine. What else could we do?" said one leading member.

While the rebels have been buoyed by considerable acclaim from local Tory activists, Government whips predict that their ebulliance may fade as they spend a number of winter months isolated from the main party. "They may find that, once they have lost celebrity status, political life in a party of nine can be a bit miserable," said one minister.

Yesterday, however, the MPs remained adamant that they would remain united in demanding that they be received back into the party as a group, rather than individually. With the whips equally insistent that such a return to the fold would be considered only on individual voting performance, a head-on collision appeared inevitable.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article, page 21




Gorman: set the mood of defiance


Gill: withdrew support for former colleagues

15 resisted the whips

THE Commons defeat that led to the Government's climbdown over VAT on Tuesday was by 319 votes to 311.

Four Tory MPs, Paul Marland (Gloucestershire West), David Sumberg (Bury South), Ann Winterton (Congleton) and Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) and a further three Tories who have had the whip withdrawn, Michael Carttiss (Great Yarmouth), Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills) and Tony Marlow (Northampton North), voted against the Government.

There were three Tory abstentions, Phil Gallie (Ayr), Sir Rhodes Boyson (Brent North) and William Powell (Corby), and a further five by MPs who have had the Tory whip removed: Sir Teddy Taylor (Southend East), Teresa Gorman (Billericay), Christopher Gill (Ludlow), John Wilkinson (Ruislip Northwood) and Sir Richard Body (Holland with Boston).

Defiance brings deselection nearer

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE risk of deselection increased last night for some of the Tory Euro-rebels who wreaked revenge on the Government for the withdrawal of the party whip.

An urgent series of meetings will be convened in some of the constituencies in the new year. Most of the constituency officers had expected their MPs to support the Government.

John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip Northwood, faces one of the toughest battles when his association meets in the new year. His officers were infuriated by his defiance of their wish for him to back the Government in last week's confidence vote. They made it clear that the Europe vote should be his last rebellion.

Teresa Gorman took Billericay Conservatives by surprise when she abstained on Tuesday after publicly pledging to vote with the Government. Frank Tomlin, Billericay Conservatives' treasurer, said: "I will be speaking to her to find out why she changed her mind. I thought Teresa was going to vote with the Government. That is what she had said. But I have to say the tax was highly unpopular. The Government has been ill-advised throughout. But I am glad it was only an abstention. However, I think most of the constituency will be with her."

Tess Hall-Patch, chairman of Holland with Boston association, said that there were mixed views in the association over the latest act of defiance by their MP, Sir Richard Body. "Since he voluntarily resigned the whip, which disappointed us, the vote on VAT had to be his decision. But this state of affairs must not be allowed to drag on. I feel sorry for John Major who is in such a beleaguered position. We are not happy about it. The question of reselection has not come up yet."

Feelings were divided in the Southend East constituency of Sir Teddy Taylor. Geoffrey Ayre, the deputy chairman, said: "Some are with him and some are against. But the Government dug itself into this mess. I hope it's the last rebellion. They should never have taken the whip away.

"I like to think Sir Teddy was not motivated by the desire for revenge. He has supported VAT on fuel in the past. People are entitled to change their minds. But for all our sakes the whip should be restored and John Major should not lead us into the next election."

Christopher Gill, the MP for Ludlow, warned his association officers he would abstain. Michael Wood, the chairman, said: "I think the feeling in the constituency was that he should have voted against it. It was a tax too far."

Tony Marlow has been given a resounding vote of confidence by the leaders of his Northampton North constituency. Barry Massey, the chairman, said: "The association continues to support him. He will continue as a good constituency MP regardless of the whip."

Labour keeps up pressure on Brussels fraud

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE Government was facing another difficult hurdle over the European finance Bill last night only 24 hours after its defeat over VAT on domestic fuel.

The Bill, which approves Britain's contributions to the EU budget, has caused great bitterness in the party, with eight Tories who refused to support it in a confidence vote having had the party whip withdrawn.

On Tuesday night seven of the eight voted against the Government or abstained in the crucial vote that scuppered the second stage of VAT on domestic fuel. Tory rebels, and opposition parties, have used the existence of massive fraud in the EU as justification for delaying or blocking implementation of the Bill.

Yesterday the prospect of feared all-night sittings on the line-by-line committee stage of the Bill receded as Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, chose for debate only seven of the 25 amendments tabled by MPs.

Before debate began, the Opposition pressed the Government on what votes on the Bill would be considered issues of confidence this time. Andrew Smith, Labour Treasury spokesman, said: "If the House is to vote to bring down the Government, it perhaps ought to know that it's doing it."

The Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, said: "The Government does attach the highest importance to the passage of this Bill and has asked my Tory colleagues to attend accordingly. The Prime Minister said the Bill must pass in all its essentials." He explained that the vote to approve the third reading of the Bill was in effect a vote of confidence in the Government.

Opening the committee stage debate, Mr Smith called for action to tackle EU fraud. "We have stressed time and time again our concern at the inadequacy of present arrangements within the EU for the detection and elimination of fraud, waste and of course the shortcomings to the workings of the Common Agricultural Policy."

He added: "The Government has not done nearly enough to combat waste and fraud within the EU."

The leading Tory Eurosceptic William Cash told the House: "There are some MPs who go pottering around claiming that people like myself are inventing nightmares or goblins, that in fact we are slightly off the wall, that we are just a lot of ridiculous old bores and are pompous to go with it.

"Some of us are simply trying to do the job we were elected to do, which is to examine what is going on."

Mr Cash accused some MPs of being "grossly negligent" in the way they had allowed the EU to burgeon. He called on ministers to allow the Public Accounts Committee to look at EU finances. This would "minimise the potential mantraps that lie ahead this evening", he said.


Cash: criticised for "simply doing my job"

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, Scottish Office questions were followed by a statement on Bosnia by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. The European Communities (Finance) Bill returned to the Commons for the first of two days' consideration of the committee stage and other remaining stages.

In the Lords, a debate was held on small and medium-sized manufacturers, and the War Crimes (Supplementary Provisions) Bill was given a second reading.

TODAY: In the Commons, there will be questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister followed by the final day's consideration of the committee and remaining stages of the European Communities (Finance) Bill.

In the Lords, there will be debates on border controls in the European Union and on the Defence Research Agency.

Fur flies over EU rabbit subsidy

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY Euro-MPs are furious that Brussels has introduced subsidies for breeders to supply rabbits to the Canary Islands for meat and fur.

The European Commission is trying to boost the rabbit population of the islands to promote a market for their meat and fur. Rabbit breeders will receive £20 from the European budget for sending a pair of pure-bred rabbits and their grandparents to the Canaries, or £16 for sending just the parents.

An EU official said that farm grants had been concentrated on rabbit breeding in the Canaries since 1993. Few breeders had taken up the offer so far, but the Union was extending the scheme until next June to lure more breeders into areas which they consider rely too much on tourism.

"Only about 400 pure-bred rabbits went to the Canaries between 1993 and 1994 under this scheme, although we anticipated about 5,500. We've actually only spent about £8,000, but we want to boost the scheme. We see the supply of rabbits as part of the progressive diversification of agriculture," the official said.

Bryan Cassidy, Tory MEP for Dorset and East Devon, attacked the payments last night, saying: "It is ludicrous to subsidise the breeding of rabbits at this cost to the taxpayer. This is not just another Euro-scare like the tales of straight bananas, the demise of the British banger or the disappearance of a pint of beer." He asked: "Haven't they got any rabbits in the Canaries?"

The official said that the scheme was designed to help an outlying region to promote a new market. "Rabbits tend to breed like, well, rabbits, but obviously they need a bit of help in the Canaries."

Euro-rebels were planning to use the rabbit subsidies as another example of the wasted money spent within the EU during last night's debate on the European finance Bill. One sceptic said: "In the last two months we have seen Brussels trying to scrap our double-decker buses, get rid of our lettuces and do away with our herbalists. Then they turn round and say they want more rabbits and expect us to take it lying down."

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Gloom on Bosnia threatens to sour Kohl grand finale

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE European Union leaders who assemble in Essen this evening for their two-day winter summit will find — as they did only a few days ago at the disastrous summit of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Budapest — that the shadow of Bosnia hangs over their conversation.

The Essen summit will try hard to do better than the Budapest summit did. This week's failure will infect the discussion on bringing eastern states into the EU in the next decade and the consequences of this for the Union's rules.

"[Bosnia] has psychological effects," a senior EU diplomat said this week. "The extent of our failure to stop people mudering the people next door has become more obvious."

The gloom over Bosnia is a profound irritant for Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who wanted a smooth finale to the Germany presidency. Herr Kohl will try to project the EU as the world's most decisive and dynamic grouping during the Essen summit, and thus recover some of the ground lost in Budapest. "We must draw clear contours, the world must know what we stand for and where we are going," a senior German diplomat said, plainly articulating the Chancellor's views.



Herr Kohl's frustration is the result of a classic paradox: Germany is afraid of behaving like a great power; and it is equally afraid of not behaving in that way. Yesterday the German leader consulted the Defence and Foreign Ministers about whether to supply Tornado jets for the Bosnian war and ended up dodging the issue. The Chancellor will make a decision only when a formal request is made by Nato or the United Nations. The absence of any real German influence on the Bosnian war, because of its lack of military commitment there, ties the Chancellor's hands as a global powerbroker. The Essen summit will not set him free but it will give him a chance to project Europe as a decisive player with a coherent strategy.

The summit's main decisions on new openings to the East and job-creating road and rail projects have been settled in advance. John Major may attract some pity and condescension from fellow leaders at the scenes in the House of Commons but the Prime Minister's possible late arrival will not affect any decision-making.



Final preparations are made yesterday to the conference room at which EU leaders will meet for two days in Essen, western Germany

As they look eastwards towards recuperating economies which have not yet found a political home, the EU leaders confront a success and a failure. The Polish, Czech, Hungarian and Slovene economies have picked up faster than was believed possible three years ago and much of the aid for privatisation, training and deregulation is now irrevelant to their needs. The summit will set a timetable for the end of all restrictions on eastern imports to the EU. Further rounds of argument will be needed to wear down the opposition of Mediterranean states to better trade rules covering goods assembled in eastern states from components or commodities manufactured elsewhere.

At Herr Kohl's urging, six eastern leaders, from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria, have been invited to the Saturday lunch after the summit. Such gestures will, it is hoped, make for more patience in east Europe while the west tries to find the right balance between Nato and EU enlargement.

One of the keys to the Chancellor's personal power within Europe has been his ability, through his friendship with Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, to build bridges with Mediterranean countries and thus deny France sole patronage of the south. That friendship has cooled somewhat over the past year but Herr Kohl needs to reassure Spain that a shift eastwards will not translate into a neglect of the Mediterranean. This will mean some double talk with the east Europeans — vagueness about timetables in public but more confident promises in private.

The east was moving gently down the track towards membership of Nato until last week, when Russia derailed the whole process by refusing to co-operate with the Partnership for Peace programme. Jacques Delors, the retiring President of the European Commission, yesterday joined those blaming America for forcing the pace and provoking the Russians. "It was a premature initiative which was badly timed," he said.

The EU Governments have told the six east European leaders who will attend the summit on Saturday that they will get no membership date at this stage. The reason lies in the unanswered questions about the EU's own future. With Austria, Finland and Sweden on board and Jacques Santer taking over from M Delors in a few weeks, the EU must face its next set of challenges. Another round of argument about federalism, majority voting, the powers of the European Parliament and the Maastricht Treaty is scheduled for 1996 and will probably stretch into 1997. Speculation will increase over whether a small group of states will agree to a single currency. Pushed by the transatlantic quarrels over Bosnia and America's baffling zigzags, Europe's big states will wonder how to make the world safer.

The outcome of these arguments hangs on the result of the French presidential election next May. Should M Delors enter the race and win, the traditional Franco-German push for deeper European integration would be revived by a partnership between the new President and Herr Kohl.

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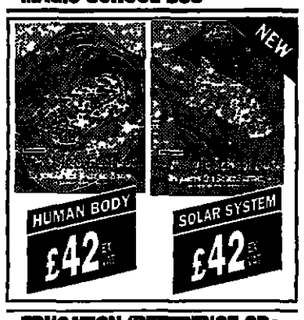
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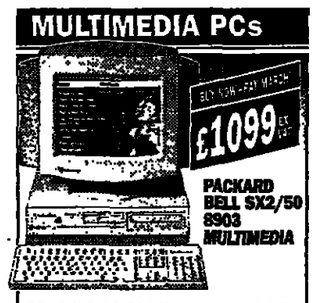
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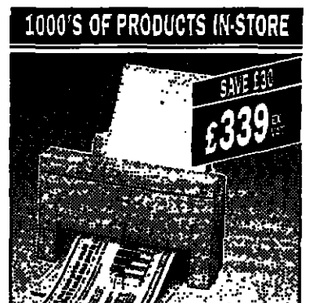
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Bonn seeks British understanding over eastward expansion of EU

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
IN ESSEN

"WILKOMMEN Europa", declares the banner spanning a main street in Essen where European Union leaders meet this week. A few yards away, posters advertise the musical talent and charms of a singer named Vicki Vomit.

John Major probably already has a queasy feeling about the determined way Germany has pressed ahead with its presidential agenda after the distraction of October's general elections. The Bonn plans centres on political and economic union, widening the powers of the European Parliament, and tightening EU ties with former Eastern bloc countries.

The Essen summit is part of the countdown to the inter-governmental conference in 1996, when vital decisions on political and monetary union must be taken.

Germany feels grossly misunderstood by Britain and has instigated a series of regular talks with EU countries which will hold the presidency between now and 1996 — France, Spain and Italy.

The Bonn Government is highly sensitive to the fears of other Europeans that Germany has become too assertive since unification, but says not enough allowances are made in London for its own problems and needs.

Unification has not produced the nirvana most Germans had expected. Eastern and western Germans are increasingly suspicious of one another and the economic cost has been phenomenal — 170 billion marks (about £70 billion) in 1993 alone. Bonn says that the lessons it has learned give it unique insight into the problems of integrating east European nations more closely in the EU.

Bonn believes that Britain does not appreciate how nervous

GERMAN MOOD

Germany feels about the fragility of democracy in neighbouring states and wants countries who may feel safe at a distance to do more to shore up the economies of former communist states.

Germany has nearly seven million foreigners — 8.5 per cent of the population. Nearly a million of these are Turkish immigrant workers, and this has caused increased friction between Germany and Turkey's ancient foe, Greece. Germany is furious at Athens's blockade of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. America's closer relations with Germany, in the wake of President Clinton's visit earlier this year, also mean that Bonn has an added incentive to improve ties with Ankara since the United States needs Turkish airbases for any future military action against Iraq.

All these specific German problems, along with the country's federal system of government, sets Bonn apart from London.

At Essen, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will lobby hard for a clearer definition of subsidiarity. Germany thinks Britain just uses the concept, enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty, as an excuse to opt out of any EU regulation it does not like, while Germany would like to restrict subsidiarity to specific issues.

"Only things which ought to be done on a lower level should be done in this way," a senior government spokesman said. "In Bavaria, they believe the Government in Bonn is superfluous and they want to deal with Brussels directly, like doing away with priests and praying directly to God. This is not how we see it."

Nonetheless, government aspirations are one thing and public opinion another when it comes to monetary union. Many Germans are in favour of political union because they are used to a federal system and see themselves as both Europeans and German citizens. Decision-making in Brussels is not seen as emasculating their nationality in the way it is viewed by many in Britain. But the prospect of the disappearance of the mark is a different matter. The currency is regarded as a strong symbol of post-war security and an opinion poll this week showed that many Germans are dismayed at the thought of its replacement by the Ecu.

New Deal agenda seen as cure for 17m unemployed

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

JOBS

JACQUES DELORS' blueprint of a New Deal for Europe's 17 million jobless will probably take up more time than any other issue at the Essen summit but Europe's unemployed should not expect miracles.

The debate is a follow-up to the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, which M Delors presented to the Copenhagen summit a year ago. Worthy as its contents may be, it is not a legislative agenda, unlike the White Paper that led to the single market, but merely a set of recommendations for "structural" reform in labour markets, for improved infrastructure and new technologies. These recommendations will be approved tomorrow by all Governments, and ignored by most.

Hardly a ministerial meeting has taken place during the German presidency of the European Union without some discussion about the White Paper. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, hardly ideological soul-mates over Europe, waxed lyrical this week about the "new thinking" inside the European Commission, with its emphasis on deregulation, support for part-time work, and welfare cuts.

Since the British Government started implemented most of these recommendations years ago, this initiative is hardly interference from Brussels. Mr Portillo even claimed that "Europe is moving in the direction of Britain", and his praise for "President Delors" this week was breathtaking.

The most significant aspect of the "new thinking" in the Commission is the slowdown in the drive for harmonisation, especially in social policy. This week's battle over



the rights of part-time workers may have been one of Mr Portillo's last opportunities to pick a fight with some of his EU colleagues. A Commission spokesman said recently: "There is just not enough support in member states for another round of legislation".

M Delors's more emollient tones have already influenced the debate about unemployment in many EU states. The fashionable view in Brussels is that the economic recovery alone will not end unemployment. The notion that unemployment contains a structural component is as old as Keynes. Its weakness is that as a global theory it holds true for some countries, such as America, but not for others, such as Germany.

With the enthusiasm of politicians for the ideas of an economist, the Commission this week came out with a tough report on unemployment, to be discussed tomorrow morning. It calls for more part-time work, reduced employment protection, a change in social security systems to encourage the unemployed to find a job, a reduction in non-wage labour costs, and more vocational training. In the EU, only Belgium is sceptical.

The most significant practical aspect of this discussion is the emphasis on infrastructure and new technologies, which entered the Delors report under the heading of competitiveness. The two most important are the Trans-European Networks — including 14 priority projects for road and rail links between EU countries — and plans to liberalise Europe's telecommunications markets. It is areas such as these that will determine Europe's future competitiveness and the state of its labour market.

Leading article, page 21



A journalist at a Delors press conference in Brussels yesterday jokingly displays a Revolutionary Communist Youth poster describing him as a danger to the Left

Audience awaits star's entrance

DELORS

FROM the moment he arrives in Essen this morning for the European Union summit, Jacques Delors, out-going President of the European Commission, will be the main crowd-pulling event (George Brock writes).

The attention he will receive may well be the spur that provokes him at last to announce that he will stand in next May's election to find President Mitterrand's successor. Speculation is heightened by the fact that he has scheduled a prime-time television interview in France for Sunday night.

Today, M Delors will be saluted by his fellow Socialist leaders. Similarly tearful farewells will follow at the EU summit on Friday and Saturday.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in particular, will have to tread carefully. As a Christian Democrat, he should strictly speaking prefer a right-of-centre candidate, but the Germans are finding it difficult to hide their hopes that the Socialist M Delors will emerge as France's next President.

Excitement cannot conceal Essen's troubled times

BY ROGER BOYES

SUMMIT CITY

On a good day Essen gives the impression of being smothered by damp, brown gabardine. Despite a decade or more of cleaning up, the host city of this week's European Summit is still a place where the locals cough and splutter because of its position at the heart of the industrial Ruhr Valley.

The Ruhr is trying to present itself as a fun region. It cannot compete with Cannes, the next European summit venue, but the least Essen can do is try to project itself as the hub of the new united Germany.

The city fathers are certainly trying hard. An old turbine factory is being remodelled for an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical production. Clear water has been found bubbling in disused flooded coal bunkers and so a bright spark from the regional North Rhine Westphalian government has come up with the idea of introducing scuba diving to the Ruhr. Town planners have devised a 70-mile hiking route over slagheaps most of which, mercifully, are covered in grass.

Down the road, in Bottrop, Warner Brothers is to open a "film leisure park" — Bugs Bunny studio combined with a funfair — as a German rival to France's Euro Disney. The world's largest gasometer has been converted into a museum and in one district of Essen a mine, opened in the 1930s, is being used by young furniture designers, gallery owners and a sculptor. The former coal sorting hall is used for musical rehearsals. Even so, sadly, Essen is still not fun. The cityremains formidably unattractive — according to architects it can lay claim to the ugliest railway station in Germany — and there is no disguising the fact that it is in the throes of a structural crisis. The city of Alfred Krupp has lost 300,000 steel jobs over the past three decades and coal mining is as stricken as its British counterpart. Service industries have taken up some of the slack, but old jobs are still dying: hardly a good omen for a meeting that is partly aiming to be a "job summit".

There is, nonetheless, a frisson of excitement in the city. Tony Blair and other left-leaning politicians arriving for a "Socialist summit" in Essen yesterday were confronted by armies of police, sniffer dogs and surveillance helicopters.

A successor organisation to the terrorist Red Army Faction has threatened either to attack the Socialist politicians, or the European leaders who arrive tonight. The so-called Anti-Imperialist Cells have already firebombed an office used by Karl Lamers, author of a Christian Democrat document urging a hard-core Europe. A document prepared by the group claims that the Essen summit is supposed to be "Germany's decisive step towards becoming a great power," and should be halted by any means.

Meals in Ruhr castles to punctuate talks

TIMETABLE

THE two-day summit at the Essen exhibition centre will start tomorrow, with arrivals at 8.45 and the following timetable:

☐ 10am: The summit begins with a discussion on the follow-up of the Delors White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment. The leaders will hold a discussion on unemployment and EU infrastructure projects. The debate will take up the entire morning.

☐ 1pm: Leaders will go to a Ruhr castle for lunch with the German President, Roman Herzog. Bosnia will be the main item of discussion.

☐ 3pm: The "Family Photo". This is followed by a debate on EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. EU leaders will discuss a strategy paper, focusing on intermediate steps, including trade liberalisation. There will be no timetable for enlargement.

☐ 8pm: Official welcoming speech by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, at dinner in another Ruhr castle.

Saturday:

☐ 8.30am: EU heads reconvene for a three-hour session to draft the conclusions of the summit.

☐ 12pm: The leaders of six Central and East European countries, Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania join the summit, where they will be presented with the decision on the enlargement strategy. This is followed by "an extended family photo".

☐ Approximately 1pm: EU, Central and East European leaders leave for lunch.

☐ 3pm: Final news conference by Herr Kohl.

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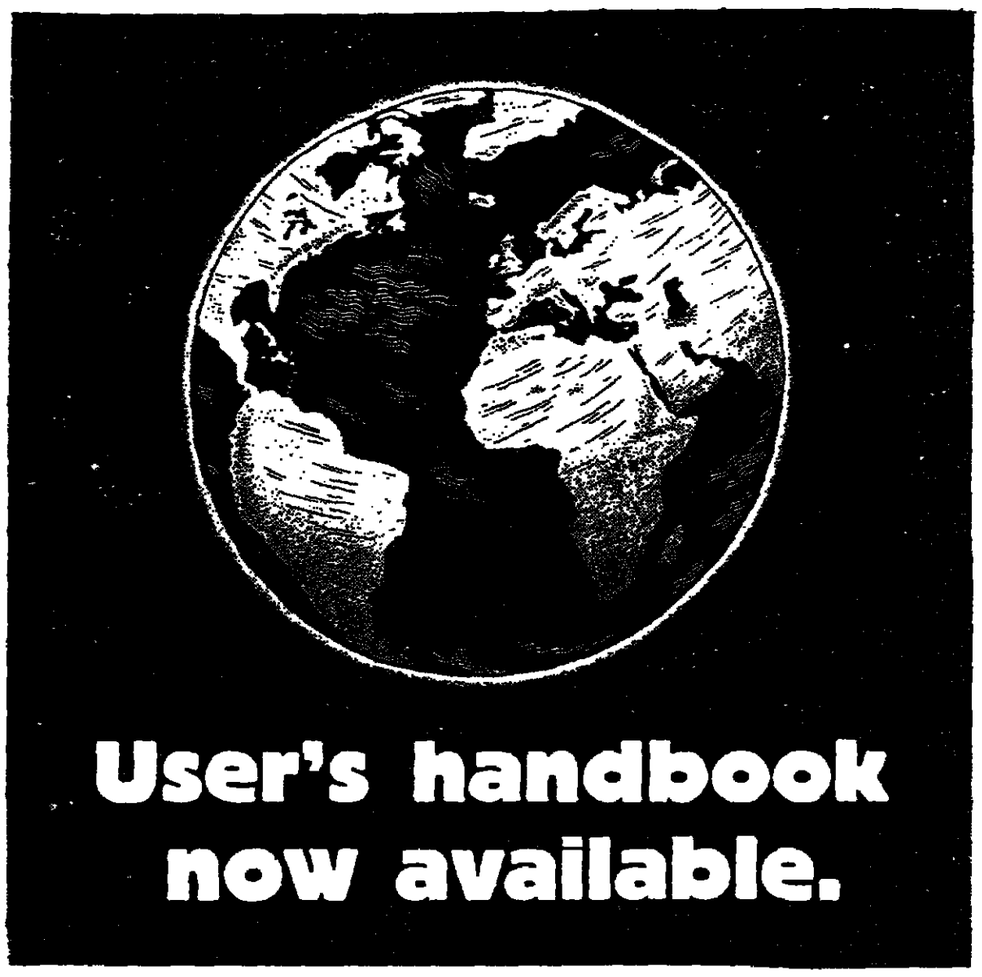
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'Unprofor has shown its real face in Bihac, we will keep the peace ourselves'

Serbs hint at peace as Nato draws up plan for pull-out

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

RADOVAN Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, yesterday hinted that he is ready to talk about peace as moves to pull United Nations peacekeepers out of the republic gathered momentum.

Dr Karadzic, who has been ostracised by President Milosevic of Serbia and faces growing splits among his own followers said "new interpretations" of the international peace plan were "a good point of departure for more talks". Mr Milosevic met Contact Group negotiators last week and relayed his interpretation of those talks to a group of Bosnian Serbs in Belgrade on Monday.

However, there was some confusion yesterday when Dr Karadzic indicated that the Bosnian Serbs would not have to accept the peace plan map before any new talks take place, as demanded by the Contact Group.

"We welcome the interpretation whereby further work on the map is possible as well as the definition of the constitutional arrangements and the peace treaty before the definitive acceptance of the plan," the Bosnian Serbs said in a statement.

The apparent softening came as France asked the UN and Nato to draw up detailed plans for a withdrawal of peacekeepers, and Nato decided to ask members states how many troops they might be willing to contribute to help a pullout. However, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons there would be no unilateral pullout.

"If the risk becomes unacceptable, there should be a withdrawal," he said. "We have not reached that point yet." He added: "Withdrawal would be difficult. The consequences for the civilians whom the forces are there to protect would be severe."

In Paris Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, said: "We have asked the UN and Nato to plan in detail the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers. I say today that the obstinacy of some and the demagoguery of others risks setting the Balkans ablaze tomorrow. I am still ready to do everything I can to prevent that, but it is my duty to say that it is, alas, no longer likely."

France has 5,500 men in the former Yugoslavia, of whom more than 4,000 are in Bosnia, more than any other nation. Fanning a row with Washington over who is to blame for what he called the dead-end in Bosnia, M Juppé denounced governments "which teach us lessons daily and which have not lifted a little finger to put even one man on the ground".

In Brussels, Nato ambassadors at their weekly meeting approved the request from the military authorities to go ahead with contingency planning for a possible withdrawal in hostile conditions of the 23,000 peacekeeping troops in Bosnia. They said 20,000 to 25,000 troops would be required.

The Bosnian Serb declaration, implying that new peace talks could go ahead before the map is accepted, surprised Western diplomats who have been saying precisely the opposite. They say that "new interpretations" of the plan mean that virtually everything is negotiable but only after the map has been accepted.

The visit by a Bosnian Serb delegation to Belgrade on Monday was the first publicly acknowledged contact between Bosnian Serb officials and President Milosevic since he ordered a blockade of Bosnia on August 4.

The visit was fiercely opposed by Momcilo Krajisnik, the speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, who said: "The Serbs can never accept Bosnia as a state. We believe that those who do accept this, either publicly or privately, support the war option."

In Belgrade there is widespread speculation that Dr Karadzic, or other top officials, met President Milosevic secretly last week.



Bosnian Croat troops enter the village of Celebic, southwestern Bosnia, yesterday during an offensive aimed a cutting off rebel Serbs in their stronghold of Knin



Karadzic: surprised Western negotiators

British Cabinet to decide on troops

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE most senior members of the Cabinet will meet today to decide if Britain can still afford to keep more than 3,000 troops in Bosnia at a time of escalating political and military harassment. All the signs are that John Major will be advised that he must start planning for a withdrawal within weeks.

The costs, the Overseas Policy (Defence) Committee of the Cabinet is likely to decide, are now so great that Britain's vital interests are being damaged. The Bosnian conflict has caused the worst rift in Anglo-American relations since Suez; it has inflicted lasting damage on the Atlantic alliance; and it threatens not only to make a mockery of the efforts by British peacekeepers to save lives and provide humanitarian aid but to escalate into all-out war in which British troops would be a prime target. Casualties on the scale suffered by the US Marines in Lebanon could be a mortal blow to the Government's credibility.

The Prime Minister and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, have been dropping increasingly clear hints over the past few days that Britain has had enough. Exhausted by the strain of trying to maintain the unity of the five-nation Contact Group, disillusioned by the perfidy of not only the Serbs but also the Muslims, worried by sharply rising costs and keenly aware that British public opinion now regards all the combatants as equally stubborn, ungrateful and blameworthy, the Government believes that it may be forced to abandon all attempts to alleviate the war's toll.

In the chilling words of Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, the only realistic aim is to "ringfence the massacre".

The Cabinet will hear from Mr Hurd on his efforts to get parties to the negotiating table, and a report by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, who has just been in Bosnia assessing the difficulties of a contested withdrawal in the middle of winter and listening to accounts by military commanders of plummeting morale of British troops unable to carry out their mission.

But it is not only the increasing futility of the operation on the ground that worries the Cabinet; it is the political toll that Bosnia is taking, especially on Britain's relations with America.

Muslims divided over UN's role

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN STARI VITEZ

GROUPED outside the mosque before going in for morning prayers, the elders of this small Muslim community, adjoining Vitez proper, were unanimous in their anger towards the United Nations Protection Force. Unprofor's perceived betrayal of the Muslims in Bihac has turned the elders against it.

Yet the old men should have every reason to want the British Unprofor troops to remain in central Bosnia. Just a short walk away, across the Jaruga River, are the graves of 99 Muslim men, women and children slaughtered by Croat HVO soldiers at Ahinici early last year. The British troops were unable to stop that massacre, but their arrival probably saved further slaughter.

Despite the memories of Ahinici and other senseless killings committed by both sides during the Muslim-Croat war in central Bosnia, however, the old men in this pocket of 1,200 Muslims in an area of 70,000 Croats shook their heads when asked if they were concerned about talk of an Unprofor withdrawal.

"Unprofor has shown its real face in Bihac," the man delegated to speak for them said. "There is no oil and no food for the people in Bihac, it all goes to the Serbs. From now on we will keep the peace ourselves, we don't need Unprofor."

Emina Ivkan, a woman in the village, which still bears the terrible scars of war, said: "We have enough soldiers, we can handle things without the UN."

But, as everywhere in Bosnia, Unprofor's role produces extremes of opinion. A 57-year-old former soldier in the mainly Muslim BiH Bosnian Army was adamant that Unprofor should stay. "The Muslims will be killed if Unprofor leaves," he said. "I was a soldier for a long time, I know from experience that it would be very bad if the UN is withdrawn".

The local BiH Italian Commander in Stari Vitez was also keen for Unprofor to stay and keep the peace. Captain Cejvan Nermin of 325 Brigade said: "There is no need for Unprofor to go from here. We have really good relations with Unprofor. Every day it's getting better here. I think this will continue, but Unprofor is the leader of the peace here in central Bosnia."

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Italy's anti-bribe judge sets sights on political office

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SILVIO Berlusconi breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after Judge Antonio Di Pietro resigned, but the Italian Prime Minister has only obtained a stay of execution. Italians are disappointed with the media tycoon's political adventurism but will tolerate his remaining in office while they squabble over who will replace him at the Palazzo Chigi.

Judge Di Pietro thought of quitting for weeks because he has long considered entering politics under right-wing sponsorship. The physical and psychological stress of spearheading the anti-corruption investigation for nearly three years at considerable personal risk no doubt played a part in his decision to leave. However, he has kept his options open by letting it be known that his resignation is "frozen" while he takes a two-month holiday. His main objective is to become Minister of Justice or Interior Minister, if not Prime Minister, friends say.

The burly 44-year-old former policeman of humble origin began the *tangentopoli* (bribe city) investigation in February 1992 that has led to the arrest of about 3,000 politicians, businessmen and officials.

Signor Di Pietro clearly thought long before resigning and evidently received guarantees of a political future from high-placed friends before making the decision that has let Signor Berlusconi off the hook. The Prime Minister was due to be interrogated next week by the judge on the alleged bribery of tax inspectors. Signor Di Pietro's abrupt departure means that the questioning will be postponed again, or that the tycoon will be questioned by a less able investigator who is poorly informed about the affairs of Fininvest, the Prime Minister's holding company.

Signor Berlusconi has sworn on the lives of his five children that he is innocent of corruption. But Judge Di Pietro is unlikely to have placed the head of government under formal investigation unless he has plausible evidence against him.

The key to understanding the latest twist in the battle for the creation of a Second Republic is that Judge Di Pietro, unlike many of his colleagues in the Milan anti-corruption team, is a man of the Right rather than the Left, with a sense of mission similar to that of the anti-Mafia judge, Paolo Borsellino, killed by the Cosa Nostra in Palermo in 1992. Borsellino made no secret of his sympathy for the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement.

Judge Di Pietro undoubtedly felt hampered and frustrated by Signor Berlusconi's antics in his efforts to purge Italy. His plan is to enter a new government, ideally one headed by his close friend Francesco Cossiga, the former President, after parliament has passed the 1995 austerity budget, sources say. Signor Cossiga has a large following, but may be unacceptable to President Scalfaro because he was the Interior Minister during the kidnap and murder in 1978 of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader and former Prime Minister, by Red Brigades terrorists.

In Tunis yesterday, Bettino Craxi, the former Italian Prime Minsiter, said that an Italian court, which sentenced him to five-and-a-half years in jail for corruption, was a "firing squad".

Craxi, who was Prime Minister from 1983 to 1987 and now lives in self-imposed exile at his holiday home in Hammamet, Tunisia, said that he was too ill to return to Italy, where he was sentenced in absentia on Tuesday, and denied all charges against him.



Four Russian servicemen drinking tea in the state parliamentary building in Moscow yesterday after being released by Chechenia. The prisoners had been held since late last month, when Moscow-backed forces unsuccessfully tried to capture the capital, Grozny

Moscow backtracks over Chechenia peace offer

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Government yesterday intensified pressure on the breakaway region of Chechenia, as Russian warplanes allegedly bombed a target near Grozny, the capital.

The Russian security council ordered yesterday that "all constitutional measures" should be taken to disarm the two sides in the Chechen civil war. In effect, this means the forces loyal to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, because the Russian-backed opposition — for obvious reasons — immediately agreed to Russia's demand. General Dudayev has categorically refused.

The latest Russian moves came less than 24 hours after an agreement between General Dudayev and Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, that force would not be used and that General Dudayev would release all the Russian military prisoners in his hands. Moscow commentators assumed therefore that the Yeltsin administration was pulling back from military intervention. But Yusuf Shamseddin, the Chechen Prime Minister, yesterday evening accused Russia of breaking its word.

Two Russian warplanes were seen over Grozny yesterday and were engaged by Chechen anti-aircraft fire. A local official said they had tried to bomb a military base outside the city but missed.

The Russian Government has repeatedly invited General Dudayev to Moscow for talks but his refusal to compromise on Chechen independence leaves the two sides very little to talk about. The Russian security council statement does not necessarily mean that Russia will intervene militarily. A majority of both the Russian parliament and Russian public opinion is opposed.

Thrifty Swedish royals fight budget cut

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN'S royal family, which is now forced to use second-hand furniture and cannot afford computers, has reached the limit of its much-vaunted frugality.

Palace officials who are fighting attempts to cut government contributions to King Carl Gustaf's household, complain that the King is already having to dig into his own pockets to pay for official duties. "We don't have a computer network like the other public departments and we can't afford new furniture or photocopiers so we buy second-hand," said palace spokeswoman Elizabeth Tarras-Wahlberg. "The staff who serve the King have much lower salaries than those in equivalent posts in government departments."

The Swedish Government grants the King 30 million Swedish crowns (about £2.5 million) to pay for 60 staff and costs such as official travel. But, according to Mrs Tarras-Wahlberg, it is not enough, and recently he has been running out of cash two months before the end of the budget year. This means the King has had to supplement staffing costs from his own fortune, estimated by palace sources as at least £6 million. But the hardship pleas are likely to fall on deaf ears. Facing a huge state budget deficit, the country's new Social Democratic Government has said spending cuts have to be made across the board.

Marita Ulvskog, Minister for Public Administration, warned: "It's time to bring an end to the special way of dealing with the court. All state authorities will have to find budget savings."



Carl Gustaf: unable to afford new furniture

Jaruzelski 'suicidal' after brick attack

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE former Polish President, Wojciech Jaruzelski, has been badly injured in an attack by a retired farmer. As the general bent to kiss the hand of his assailant's daughter during a book-signing ceremony to mark the publication of his memoirs, he was hit in the face with a brick.

General Jaruzelski, 70, who imposed martial law in Poland in 1981, is reported to be badly depressed after undergoing surgery at a military hospital in Warsaw for a serious eye injury and multiple fractures of his cheekbones. He is not expected to be well enough to go home until Christmas and is "as near suicide as anyone can be", according to his former official translator, Bengt Scotland.

The attack happened in the city of Wroclaw on October 11 as the general was signing copies of his book, *Martial Law: Why?*.

General Jaruzelski has appealed for clemency for his attacker, Stanislaw Helski, who blamed the general for bankrupting him during martial law. "I have waited for this for many years," Mr Helski shouted as he hit the general with a brick wrapped in newspaper, court officials said. The attacker faces between six months and five years in prison. His daughter, Urszula, denied being an accomplice. She said that she and her mother had tried to dissuade him.

Mr Scotland said yesterday: "There was a long queue of people waiting for him to sign copies of his memoirs, when along came this man with a very attractive daughter. The general bowed and kissed her hand in the old-fashioned way. This chap then hit him with a boxing-style uppercut. The left eye was out of its socket."

Mr Scotland said the general was a broken man who felt he had lost his friends. "He has changed tremendously and feels everyone has turned their backs on him."

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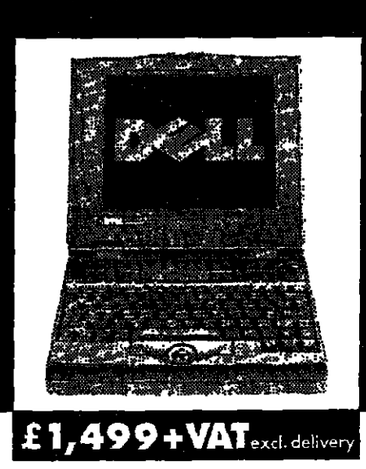
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Clinton sets out to woo back alienated friends

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is seeking urgently to re-establish his credentials as a leader of the centre to salvage his crumbling presidency and avert an open rebellion by angry "New Democrats" who feel he has betrayed their cause.

In the first of several big "repositioning" speeches that he is to deliver over the coming weeks, Mr Clinton promised the group of leading Democratic moderates who helped him to win the White House that he would return to the centrist principles on which he campaigned. He begged members of the Democratic Leadership Council to "join me in the arena, not in the peanut gallery".

Mr Clinton's speech, delivered on Tuesday night, came just hours after Dave McCurdy, the leadership council's chairman, had launched a withering attack on the man whose presidential nomination he had seconded at the Democrats' 1992 convention in New York. Mr McCurdy is now seen as a possible challenger to Mr Clinton for the Democrats' 1996 presidential nomination, and blamed his own defeat in November's Oklahoma Senate race squarely on the "heavy burden" of Mr Clinton's unpopularity. He called the President a "transitional figure" who had "the mind of a New Democrat" but "retains the heart of an old Democrat", adding that Mr Clinton had won election "as a moderate Democrat, a New Democrat, a *DLC* Democrat" but had "governed as something else".

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday, Joel Kotkin, another prominent member of the leadership council, went even further, calling for it to sever all connections with Mr Clinton because he was hopelessly tied to the "statism of the party's left-wing core". He also advocated a 1996 primary challenge.

Mr Clinton helped to found the council ten years ago to move the Democrats back to the political mainstream, and later chaired it. The group provided the intellectual platform for his presidential campaign, and its increasingly public criticism is causing acute consternation in the White House.

Al Gore, the Vice-President, was sent to address the council's annual meeting in Washington on Tuesday, and admitted that "we have not been 100 per cent faithful" to its ideas. That afternoon leading members of the council were called to the White House for talks with Mr Clinton.

In the evening Mr Clinton himself addressed the meeting, admitting "mistakes" but also pointing to his efforts to cut the deficit, streamline government and promote free trade. He argued that he had remained truer to a "New Democrat" agenda than is generally believed and reaffirmed his commitment to core leadership council principles like equality of opportunity not outcome, weaning the poor off welfare dependency, personal responsibility, and less intrusive government. He said he had been "killing himself" to help ordinary Americans who played by the rules. Mr McCurdy responded: "That's the Bill Clinton we've been waiting to hear."

Mr Clinton's speech ended a month of near silence as he sought to comprehend his party's drubbing in the congressional elections, and he will follow it up next week with what the White House is billing as a "mini-State of the Union" address, spelling out his strategy for coping with a Republican Congress.

A *USA Today* poll yesterday gave Mr Clinton a mere 42 per cent approval rating, with fully 50 per cent of respondents saying his first two years have been a failure.

☐ **Former official charged:** Billy Ray Dale, 57, the former White House travel office director, was charged yesterday with embezzling $68,000 (£45,000) in cash and cheques obtained from his job. The Justice Department said a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment against Mr Dale.

Christmas display, page 18



Spencer Tracy won an Oscar for his portrayal of a Catholic priest in the 1938 Hollywood film *Boys Town*

Orphanages plan puts Boys Town back in limelight

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN THE past two days the phone has not stopped ringing at Boys Town, the centre for troubled teenagers in Nebraska which inspired a film in 1938 and, more than half a century later, has stimulated the most potent political debate in Washington.

The interest has been prompted by a Republican plan to expand the system of orphanages and an ensuing row between Hillary Clinton and Newt Gingrich. Mrs Clinton said the Dickensian proposal was both "unbelievable and absurd", prompting the reply from the incoming Speaker that the First Lady should "rent the Mickey Rooney film about Boys Town".

In fact, the Hollywood *Boys Town* of 1938 is a far cry from reality at the facility either then or now. All the boys in the film — apart from Mickey Rooney, who played an arrogant poker-playing delinquent — are perfectly behaved. They pray before meals, do not smoke and never swear.

Based on the story of Father Flanagan, who founded a ramshackle home for slum children at Omaha in 1917 and created an entire town for 200 boys living on a campus with dormitories, the film was a huge success at the box office and won Spencer Tracy an Oscar for his portrayal of the Catholic priest.

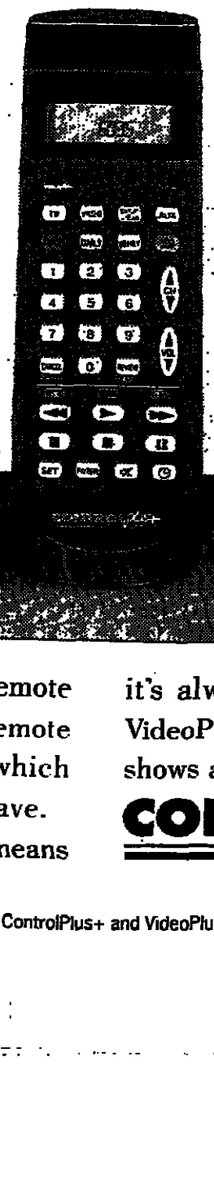
Today, the actual Boys Town has grown into a large charity which includes 76 homes in Omaha and other smaller centres throughout America, catering for 21,000 boys and girls. The children tend to have been physically or sexually abused.

Randy Blauvelt, spokesman for the organisation, admitted yesterday that eight to nine applicants are turned down for every child who is admitted. He would not be drawn into the Washington debate but said there was a definite need for new children's projects.

"The word orphanage conjures up images of stirring the gruel," he said. "There are really no modern orphanages like that. All we know is that there is a definite need for all kinds of programmes to help children."

Republican plans to expand orphanages, at an estimated cost of $34 billion (£22 billion), stem from their proposed welfare reforms which would include scrapping assistance to single mothers under 18 and children whose mothers do not establish paternity. At least five million children could be denied benefits as a result.

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Investment fund crash bankrupts home of the rich

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CALIFORNIA'S Orange County, birthplace of Ronald Reagan's anti-tax and anti-government revolution and one of America's wealthiest enclaves, has become the largest local government in American history to file for bankruptcy.

Shaken leaders of the affluent suburban sprawl just south of Los Angeles, took the desperate step on Tuesday night after an investment house suddenly demanded repayment of $1.2 billion (about £76 million) in loans to the county's controversial investment fund. The county could only achieve that by selling securities at substantial losses.

The investment fund was a model of the sort of high-risk capitalistic venturism the Reagan years encouraged. Robert Citron, Orange County's Treasurer, had over several years turned $7.8 billion (about £5 billion) into $20 billion by borrowing money short-term to buy longer-term bonds.

But he was caught out by the recent sharp rise in interest rates. The fund's value has plummeted $1.5 billion this year and on Monday, as the scale of the losses became clear, Mr Citron resigned. He was, ironically, the only elected Democrat in the deeply conservative county.

It is conceivable that Orange County's bankruptcy petition will be rejected, meaning it would be faced with the unpalatable option of raising taxes in the place where America's 1980s tax revolt began. Orange County certainly possesses an enviable tax base, with an average per capita income of about $25,498 (about £16,344) last year.

If the bankruptcy petition succeeds, it would give the county protection from its panicking creditors while it devises a plan to restore its financial viability. But it would still pay a very heavy price over the longer term.

The county's credit ratings will plunge and it will find it extremely hard to sell bonds to raise money for future capital projects. That was a reason why New York City refrained from filing for bankruptcy during its financial crisis in the mid-1970s.

Before Tuesday, the largest American municipality to file for bankruptcy was Bridgeport, a Connecticut city of 150,000, that by 1991 had amassed debts of more than $200 million. In that case, a bankruptcy judge rejected the petition, saying that the city could raise more taxes to pay its debts.

By contrast, Orange County has a population of 2.6 million and is one of the largest and the wealthiest counties in America. Within its boundaries are Disneyland in Anaheim, Richard Nixon's presidential library at his birthplace of Yorba Linda, and several glitzy Pacific resort towns like Newport Beach, where the world's highest density of Mercedes Benz cars is to be found.

It is a famous Republican stronghold, and was the staging ground for the anti-tax, anti-government campaign that took Ronald Reagan to the White House in 1980. Orange County consists of 37 cities.

Its leaders insisted yesterday that police, fire and other basic services would not be affected, but the county's financial crisis will be felt throughout California.

An estimated 185 other Californian cities, school districts and government agencies had invested in Mr Citron's fund, tempted by an average annual return of 9.03 per cent over the past decade — double that of comparable investment pools.

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Population: 2,596,500 (1994)
Median family income (1994) $54,413
Gross County Product: (1994) $76.4 billion, or 36th when ranked with national economies (35th Portugal)
Average price of family home: $217,750
Total retail sales (1994) $22 billion
Cars per 1,000 adults (1994) 968
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Top five employers:
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Rockwell International (aerospace)
Disneyland
Hughes Corporation (aerospace)
Pacific Bell (telephone)

Orange County's crisis hits dollar

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

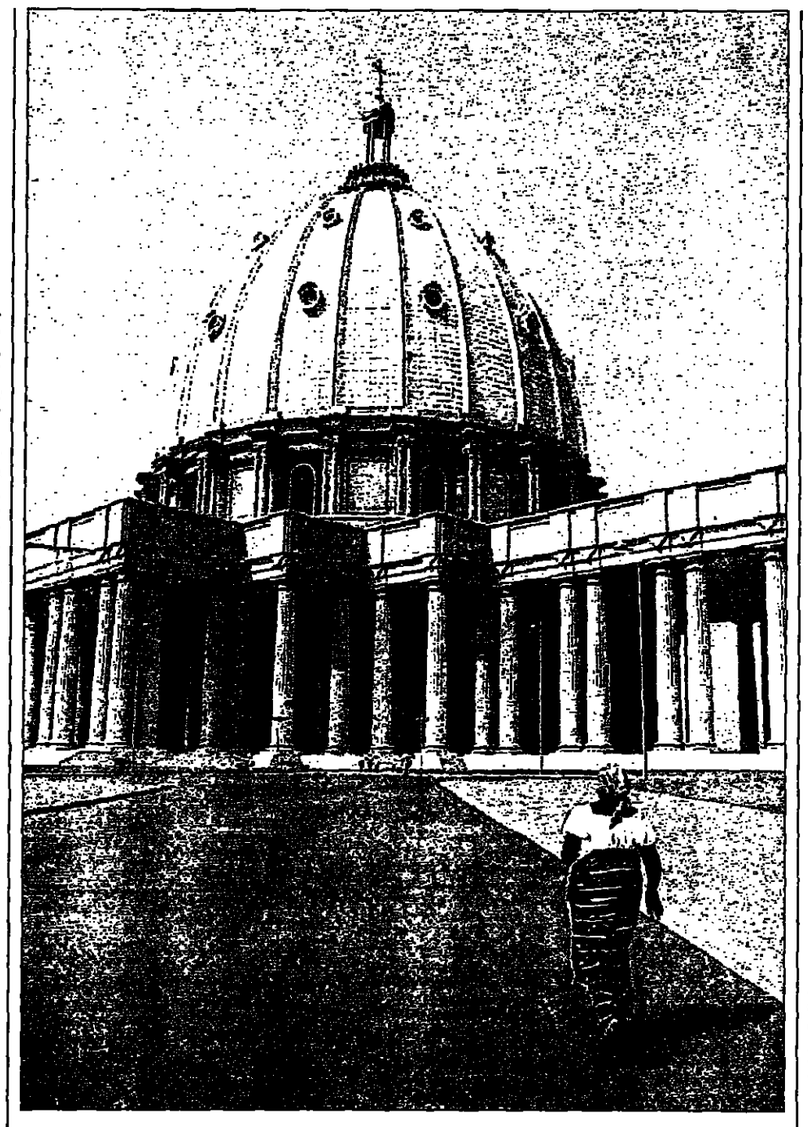
STOCK prices opened sharply lower and bonds were depressed on Wall Street yesterday with dealers shocked by the decision of Orange County, California, to file for bankruptcy protection.

The county, whose 2.6 million, generally conservative residents, have the highest per-capita income of any district in America, filed for protection under Chapter Nine of the bankruptcy code, which gives 120 days of relief from creditors and lawsuits. Analysts said the only alternative appeared to have been a federal takeover and asset freeze.

The move came after some of the investment banks that financed the county's investment fund had threatened on Tuesday to cut off its credit. The lenders were demanding repayment of $1.2 billion (£770 million) in short-term loans, far more than the fund could raise without selling securities whose value has been depressed.

"We are taking this step so that the current financial situation can be resolved," Thomas Riley, Orange County's board chairman said. "It is important to note that the county remains in control of all its operations."

The decision to file for protection comes less than a week after the county disclosed that its portfolio had lost $1.5 billion of its $20 billion value this year in risky trading. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has launched an investigation, and Robert Citron, the fund's manager, has resigned, blaming the losses on recent rises in interest rates.



A woman hurries to mass at the basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, in the Ivory Coast. President Houphouët-Boigny, who died a year ago, ordered the building of the basilica, the largest in the Christian world. The project, which included eight-lane highways, 20 hotels and four universities in the former president's home town, almost bankrupted the country. On Saturday, a requiem mass will be held at the basilica, after a year of mourning. Since Houphouët-Boigny's death Yamoussoukro has fallen into neglect while developers converge on Daoukro, the modest home town of his successor, President Henri Konan Bedie.

Monument to dictator

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for help in taxi war

Johannesburg: The South African National Defence Force has been asked to help police to ensure the safety of commuters as taxi-related violence spreads during the festive season (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The appeal was made by Jessie Duarte, the Safety and Security Minister for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging region, which includes Johannesburg, after the Government suspended talks with feuding taxi owners.

Namibia votes

Windhoek: Namibians are voting in the country's first elections since it won independence in 1990, with President Nujoma confidently predicting victory for himself and his ruling Swapo party. *(Reuter)*

Hug seals pact

Los Angeles: Divorced stars Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson hugged each other at the end of an acrimonious court hearing, having agreed on support payments for their son Quinton, six. *(Reuter)*

Somalia pullout

Mogadishu: Indian warships steamed into the Somali port of Kismayu to cover the withdrawal of 850 Indian United Nations troops. Fighting between rival clans erupted even before they left. *(Reuter)*

Collor on trial

Brasilia: Fernando Collor de Mello, the former Brazilian President, has gone on trial on corruption charges. It is the first time that a Brazilian president has faced criminal charges. *(AFP)*

Colony demand

Hong Kong: The Legislative Council here has demanded that Britain helps to repatriate thousands of boat people, and take those rejected by Vietnam before the handover to China in 1997. *(Reuter)*

Pocket crisis

Shanghai: Guangdong, China's richest province, is running out of loose change. The problem is so acute that black marketeers are offering 100 yuan (£7.50) notes for 85 yuan in change. *(Reuter)*

China dissident requests UN help

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Chinese security police have threatened to kill Wang Dan, 25, one of China's leading dissidents.

According to Mr Wang, who two days ago announced that he was suing the authorities for harassing him, police officers followed him to the Peking library and warned him to stay at home in future. One officer confronted Mr Wang in the library and threatened him with being beaten to death if he went out again.

In an open letter, Mr Wang is appealing to the United Nations "to respond and persuade the Chinese Government to halt this persecution of me". He said the moment of his death for supporting democracy "appears to be at hand". It is, however, unlikely that the security services will murder Mr Wang; he is far too well known in China and abroad. Their way is detention, secret trial and execution.

Chat show host talks man out of death plunge

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A MAN threatening to throw himself off a New York bridge was dissuaded from committing suicide on live radio yesterday by the controversial talk show host Howard Stern, who promptly turned the incident into a publicity coup.

Emilio Bonilla, 29, called the Howard Stern morning radio programme on a cellular telephone from the George Washington Bridge, which links Manhattan and New Jersey, saying he was despondent and planned to "end it all".

Mr Stern kept Mr Bonilla talking for six minutes with a stream of jokes until a motorist, Helen Trimble, who had been listening on her car radio, jumped out of the vehicle and hugged the Hispanic man. Thirty police, who had also been tuned in, then led Mr Bonilla away, to be charged with cocaine possession. He is also having psychiatric tests.The Howard Stern Show has attracted one of the largest radio audiences in the US, despite accusations of racism, sexism and obscenity.

After the incident, Mr Stern quipped: "Would a racist remove a foreign brother from a suicide plunge that would have left his 18 children and 45 relatives homeless?"

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On the trail of the triffid

Dalya Alberge follows Sir David Attenborough into the potting shed to find some unlikely leafy monsters for his latest series

ADRIAN BROOKS



Power flowers: Sir David Attenborough has used the latest computerised technology to film plants that can move, count and fight

You will see your garden in a more sinister light after watching Sir David Attenborough's latest television series next month. Attenborough could do for plants what Steven Spielberg did for sharks and Alfred Hitchcock for birds — unnerve you, but fascinate you. In his hands, nature programmes meet the *Day of the Triffids*. He shows that plants can see, count, fight and even estimate time — though he would not claim consciousness for them.

Using time-lapse technology to condense into seconds what occurs over days, weeks and months, he brings plants to life, making them move like animals: the elongated leaf of a predatory pitcher plant hovers like a serpent as it waits for its prey; the shoot of an aggressive blackberry plant, advancing into new territory, becomes the tentacle of some land-based octopus.

The idea of using computerised time-lapse technology, which should revolutionise the way we look at plants, came to Attenborough in the bath. The process involves taking, perhaps, a single frame of film an hour and then projecting 25 frames per second. In speeded-up time, pods and petals open and close with a rapidity that makes you think they are breathing on the same timescale as animals.

Plants, he says, are "constantly on the move: developing, fighting, avoiding or exploiting predators or neighbours". Earlier this week, at his home in Richmond, he played brief extracts from the series. As he was still fine-tuning the commentary, he read from his typed script. It was incongruous seeing the man, who usually appears on screen grovelling inside a termite hill or huddling up to gorillas, in this suburban habitat.

But the modesty and quiet humour (he adores Ronnie Barker and thinks *Porridge* a comic masterpiece) and of course, the breathlessly velvet voice, are all there. "Do you think so?" he responded with genuine surprise to my suggestion that his new series would transform our view of plants. "How very nice of you to say that. It's my team that deserves the praise."

Attenborough is a teacher with a class of millions. They tune in because he entertains as much as he informs: when he mentions a spider that lassoos moths, he does an impression of it by kicking his feet up in the air.

His father was a university academic who knew that "you didn't stand children like milk bottles on a shelf and pour in half a litre of information a day". When the young Attenborough found a fossil in the countryside, his father didn't tell him that it was an ammonite from the Jurassic period: instead, he expressed amazement that a sea creature was in the middle of Leicestershire, inspiring his son to discover more about it for himself.

"*All* children are inquisitive about the natural world," says Attenborough, as he recalls his five-year-old godson turning over a stone and gasping "Look! What a treasure! A slug!" Attenborough agreed: "It *is* a treasure," and crouched down to marvel at it, too. Like the best teachers, he only encourages and prompts. Even when I was asked to guess the origin of an extraordinary terracotta pot (made in prehistoric Japan) and made a hash of it, he enthused, "not a bad guess".

Attenborough cannot remember a time when he was not interested in natural life, sneaking insects into the classroom to make a lesson more diverting — though he also recalls being ill-behaved and disruptive at school.

For his eighth birthday, his father gave him a salamander. He also had tropical fish and grass snakes in tanks. When I voice my fear of snakes, he mentions — astonishingly — his fear of mice. Such fears, he says, stem from our uncertainty about what they are going to do next or how they are going to move. "Mice can be up your trousers before you can say Jack Robinson."

> 'Plants are constantly on the move: developing, fighting'

Snakes, on the other hand, do indicate their next move. When he was filmed a few feet away from a coiled-up rattlesnake intoning about "the most lethal, complicated killing-machine in the natural world", he recalls that viewers thought, "bloody fool, what's he sitting there for? Doesn't he know it's there?". But he knew there was no risk because a rattlesnake must uncoil itself before striking. "And if it had uncoiled itself?" I asked. "I'd have walked backwards." *Walked!*

Such sang-froid is typical of the man, who carries Schubert and Shostakovich tapes with him when camping in the jungle. He is entirely casual about things that would terrify most of us. He talks of having had "trouble" with rhinos, climbing trees to escape their wrath. "Not very serious." And he eats wildebeest as if it were chicken. He spends up to six months a year travelling to research and film wildlife. And even today, off-duty and at home in front of the television, he is happiest watching natural history programmes.

On zoos, he believes that the Victorian idea of gasping at a lion is outmoded. We want animals behaving as in the wild. As that is impossible for larger animals, zoos should concentrate on small ones, or on habitats that hold communities — for instance a coral reef with all species from sharks to prawns.

It is not surprising to hear that he is uninterested in politics because he cannot understand how politicians can be so utterly convinced of what they say. Politicians "must be very clever," he says. "Nobody ever says, 'gosh, I'm not sure'." But does Attenborough's knowledge of plants and animals provide lessons for our future, I wonder?

"I think we could easily head to anew barbarism, when you look at the Balkans ... wilfully killing one another, people like you or me. Some animals kill for the sake of it. We now know that chimps, even though they have all the living room they want and all the food they want, suddenly decide they don't like those other bastards over the hill. 'Let's go over there and fill them in.' And they do."

But he remains an optimist. He does not think there will be "a cataclysmic explosion caused by us, which is going to exterminate all life on earth".

● The Private Life of Plants, *by David Attenborough, is published today (BBC Books, £17.99). The six-part television series starts in early January on BBC1 and BBC2.*

The Clintons summon Christmas Past

Olde England takes over the White House



BEN MACINTYRE

Hillary Clinton's decision to employ Ralph Lauren, the preppy New York designer, to drape the White House in Yuletide chic this Christmas has prompted avid speculation at that point in American culture where fashion and politics collide.

In the US you are what you deck your halls with, and some go to extreme lengths, like the eccentric Arkansas millionaire Jennings Osborne, who has decorated his home with four million red light bulbs, a spectacle that can be seen by airline pilots from ten miles away.

Mrs Clinton has made plenty of statements in recent, bruising weeks: on orphanages and welfare, on allegations that one quarter of the White House staff has used drugs and, above all, on Newt Gingrich, the future Republican Speaker of the House, who is already doing his best to ensure the First Family has a perfectly hellish Christmas.

What, then, was Mrs Clinton trying to say by bringing in Mr Lauren, the designer whose WASP-wear and faux-English style is widely regarded as the last word in American *nouveau richesse*?

According to at least some of the White House staff, Mrs Clinton's choice of designer was sending all the wrong messages at a time when the President is trying to "connect with ordinary Americans" after the Democrats' pummelling at the midterm polls.

"That's like having your hair cut by Christophe [the Beverly Hills *coiffeur*] or vacationing at Martha's Vineyard," one adviser griped to *Newsweek* magazine. The boy from Hope, Arkansas, who dragged himself into the Oval Office by his bootstraps has no business, some insisted, surrounding himself with the cricket bats, bogus crests and English-Scottish country house coverings that are Ralph Lauren's designer trademarks.

Mrs Clinton's press secretary insisted that the "outreach to the Ralph Lauren creative team asking them to help us with design ideas" was calculated "to bring in America's best and brightest and show them off and the White House".

Plus, it was reported, the First Lady had noticed the windows of Mr Lauren's shop on Manhattan's 72nd Street while passing in her motorcade last Christmas and felt the White House needed that extra touch of class.

The Polo/Ralph Lauren creative team agreed to donate its services free, and spent three days, along with 50 other volunteers, providing the White House with what was described as a "natural" theme.

As the day of the unveiling approached, wry speculation was rife: would there be cashmere stockings hanging in front of the fire, strategically arranged labradors, a tree festooned with polo mallets?

On Monday Mrs Clinton hosted a tour of the festive White House with its 31 Christmas trees and 40,280 lights. Many of the decorations were provided by school students, but the Lauren look was plainly in evidence: red and green tartan ribbons hung from the halls, garlands of rich burgundy velvet and gold tulle draped the trees while gilded pine cones and dried hydrangeas were scattered amid the foliage.

To show that the President had not quite abandoned his roots, White House chefs created a gingerbread replica of Mr Clinton's childhood home, complete with a marzipan reproduction of his dog, King, and the traditional (humble?) pie cooling in the window.

Touring journalists pronounced the overall effect to be "Victorian", as they tucked into a low-fat brunch.

Perhaps the summoning up of Christmas Past was an effort by the First Lady to forget Christmas Present which, thanks to Mr Gingrich and his cohorts, is quickly turning nightmarish for the Clintons. Semioticians might note that Mrs Clinton abandoned her festive red suit for this year's tour in favour of a dark, even sombre outfit.

Mrs Clinton called on Americans to be kinder and gentler to one another. "I hope the Christmas spirit takes over the hearts of everyone," she said.

And how did the official Clinton Christmas card augur? Painted by Thomas McKnight, it depicts the Red Room in the White House, deserted. Socks is still there by the fire and a saxophone is under the tree. But of the Clintons themselves, there *is not a sign.*

With the Republicans in triumphal mood after the midterm elections and another presidential campaign looming, fearful Democrats may wonder whether this is the spirit of Christmas Yet to Come.



Eunice Gayson with a glass of bubbly in the 1950s

Champagne's reputation as the tipple of the elite is no more than a hangover, says **Giles Coren**

Raise your glasses to the people's drink

TUESDAY, December 6, was a rare day in parliamentary history: a good one for both rich and poor. While the majority will have been most interested in the freezing of VAT on domestic fuel, the social echelon that oils its cogs with bubbles was cheering the announcement of a 27p reduction in the price of champagne.

Dickens called it "one of life's elegant extras", and Government opponents pointed to the hypocrisy of an attempt to raise the premium on warmth while slashing the price of luxury. But things have changed since the 17th century, when Dom Pérignon thought he fancied a spot of fizz at a lonely monastery in the Marne Valley and created James Bond's favourite tipple. Champagne has undergone a revolution of price and image, and found a new market.

The snob value that attaches to food changes with availability. Those who thought taramasolata was the height of chic in the 1970s, or fresh pasta was the aristocrat of the dinner-table in the 1980s, later looked to sun-dried tomatoes for something you couldn't get at the Co-op. When they started to appear in cheap jars at supermarkets, sun-dried red peppers arrived to feed the rich.

Chicken was once the food of the gods. When Lady Mary Wortley Montagu was looking for a suitable menu to celebrate a romantic union in *The Lover*, in 1747, her flight of culinary fantasy extended to "and we meet, with champagne and a chicken, at last". Since the advent of battery farming, poets have had to look to more exotic fowl.

"Champagne consumption has undergone a democratisation in the past ten years," says Serena Sutcliffe, head of Sotheby's wine department. "It is no longer an élitist drink. The appearance of supermarket own-brands in the 1980s familiarised people with champagne and reduced the cachet that attached to it. It used to be seen as something extravagant and difficult to open that had to be saved for weddings. Now young people are drinking it after a good day at the office."

AMONG the older generation, though, ancient preconceptions persist. "People come to me with a bottle they have had for 30 years to ask if they should drink it yet, and I think 'God! You should have drunk it in the Sixties'. But young people are beginning to realise that its true value is when it is bubbling up in the glass, not sitting in the bottle. You don't have to go into posh shops to buy it anymore and high-street stores can cut prices."

Ms Sutcliffe's enthusiasm is echoed by Selfridges' wine buyer, William Longstaff. "This will most affect the bottom to mid-price range, which is where the champagne boom has really happened. Thirty per cent of all the wine sold in Selfridges is champagne and that figure has been rising gradually over the past few years. The public got the taste when the first cheap bottles appeared — in 1986 you could buy one for £6.99 — and as we come out of recession they are rediscovering it.

"One indication that the snob-appeal has faded is that people are buying as much of our own brand as Veuve Clicquot and Moët. Social barriers have been crossed and people are not afraid to look for value for money."

This may be true, but it will be a while before we see James Bond demanding "Tesco's own brand — £11.99, of course". Rumours of impending price increases from France suggest that the 27p difference will be swallowed up on the Krugs and the Cristals.

But their market remains one that does not shop for bargains. The Chancellor, in the true tradition of the classless society, catered not for the champagne élite, but for the new lumpen oenophiles of the 1990s.

WHICHEVER party champions the cut, and whoever objects, Hilaire Belloc knew that champagne bridged the political divide. In 1923 he wrote, after a General Election:

"The accursed power which stands on Privilege
(And goes with Women, and Champagne, and Bridge)
Broke — and Democracy resumed her reign:
(Which goes with Bridge, and Women and champagne)"

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Use of cabbage in cancer research... Pain in the gullet... Effect of the weather on hospital admissions

Hope in green veg



IT IS no longer only the walrus and the carpenter who talk of cabbages and kings. Scientists working at the Texas A&M University on the effect of environmental chemicals on the incidence of cancer are now interested in the lowly cabbage and other members of the brassica family of vegetables. Cabbages, cauliflowers, sprouts, broccoli and all the vegetables loosely described as greens are being studied to discover which chemicals they contain, and which, once released into the blood stream after being digested in the stomach, could have an anti-cancerous effect. Their results have recently been published in the journal of America's National Cancer Institute.

Research into the medicinal properties of cabbages is only one example of the reawakening of interest in the potential therapeutic value in natural compounds. Many of the older remedies are not synthesised in the laboratory: morphia from poppies, digitalis from foxgloves and salicylates from willows are all reminders of the lasting role of 18th and 19th century herbal remedies. Penicillin was an early instance of a fungus being used in medicine, but now bleomycin, a derivative of a fungus found growing in Japanese mines, has been refined into an effective treatment for testicular and some forms of lung cancer. Scientists are also investigating the powers of various sponges and algae from the deep sea bed of the Caribbean and Pacific oceans to find new drugs.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Recently several plants have been found to contain anti-cancerous compounds. The periwinkle *Vinca rosea* contains the vinca alkaloids, which can be used with good effect in the treatment for leukaemia, and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Perhaps the most exciting new group of drugs to be obtained from plants are those derived from yew trees. The first of these taxoid drugs was paclitaxel (Taxol), which was obtained from the Pacific yew. Now another taxoid derived from the European yew tree has been shown to be twice as potent.

This new taxoid, docetaxel (Taxotere), is being produced by Rhone-Poulenc Rorer and it contains the chemical 10 dab 111. The National Trust is a prolific source of the yew tree clippings needed by the manufacturers and they are collected from more than 500 ancient houses between May and October by Friendship Estates, of Walden Stubbs, North Yorkshire. Over 18 tonnes are needed to provide one patient with a single course of the treatment.

Docetaxel has not yet been approved for general release but early research shows that it is useful in the treatment of cancer of the breast and ovary and some forms of lung cancer.

Standing start



ONLY those who have never experienced the searing central chest pain caused by some antibiotics if they dissolve at the bottom end of the oesophagus (gullet), rather than in the stomach will have been surprised by reports that Andrew Lloyd Webber had to be admitted to hospital after this happened to him. The mucosa (lining) of the oesophagus is not as acid-proof and robust as that in the stomach and several antibiotics can cause acute oesophagitis, acute inflammation and even ulceration of the oesophagus, as they dissolve on to its surface.

The intense pain, together with a feeling of chest constriction, may extend up into the neck, and even down the arms. There is nausea and eating becomes a misery. Many patients may suspect a coronary thrombosis.

The chances of this discomfort are lessened if the patient takes the tablet, or capsule, standing up and accompanied by copious fluids. If, after swallowing the tablet, the patient wanders about for 10 minutes, the chances of the pill sticking in the gullet are much reduced and it will also be absorbed more quickly.

Moonstruck



A STUDY, reported in *Pulse* earlier this year, showed that a general practitioner's workload was influenced by the phases of the Moon. Dr Peter Perkins, of Bournemouth, interviewed 79 GPs and demonstrated by analysing their replies that emergency calls to a doctor increased by 3 per cent at the time of the full Moon, and dropped by 6 per cent below average at the time of the new moon. About 10 years ago similar research also showed a relationship between urinary retention from prostatic obstruction and the full Moon. The Moon's effect on criminal behaviour and psychiatric emergencies is also well documented.

The *Lancet* has recently reported that the weather as well as the Moon is important in determining the incidence of emergencies. Last summer there was a 10 to 20 fold increase in the South East of emergency admissions to hospitals for acute asthmatic attacks after thunderstorms. It is now reported that in Nottingham the number of asthmatics attending the casualty department increased sevenfold after a heavy storm on June 24. It seems that if a storm is likely to cause trouble it will also be associated with high humidity, high temperature, high pollen counts and poor air quality.

Does smoking pot damage your health?

Dr Philip Robson examines the many myths about cannabis and its effects on the human mind and body



HOMER SYKES

Smoking pot in Hyde Park in 1979: Cannabis is pleasurable but seems to carry real risks for those who consume large amounts or potent forms

Inhale deeply from a hand-rolled cannabis cigarette and your lungs will be on the receiving end of hundreds of chemicals, several of which are psychoactive (mind-altering). One in particular, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is responsible for that lift in mood and enhancement of the senses which the world's three hundred million or so recreational users evidently appreciate.

Ceremonial and religious use of cannabis can be traced back to the 8th Century BC. Every major civilisation until relatively recently has taken advantage of its medicinal properties. The unique intoxication which results from eating or smoking the drug induces millions to defy the law. But what is the cost to health and well-being?

Despite thousands of scientific articles on the subject, the question remains largely unanswered. Human research on illegal drugs poses practical difficulties which inevitably compromise scientific design, making interpretation of results a matter of speculation. Some findings stem from a single researcher and await independent confirmation.

Possible hazards can be divided into three groups: those which should be taken seriously, including the impact of cannabis smoke on the lung, impairment of memory and co-ordination and consequences for mental health; potentially worrying but unproven, such as the effects on fertility, pregnancy and the new born, suppression of the immune system, and possible damage to brain cells; and those which belong to the realms of mythology, including a suggested association with violence and personality deterioration, and the proposal that cannabis leads inexorably to "hard" drug use.

Most Western users smoke, rather than eat the drug. A typical cannabis cigarette (joint) delivers significantly more tar than a tobacco roll-up, and this tar contains even more cancer-producing chemicals than its tobacco-generated equivalent. The larger puff volume, increased depth of inhalation and longer smoke retention, enhances tar delivery to the lungs so that four joints daily are the equivalent of 20 cigarettes.

Animal experiments point strongly to airway inflammation and cancer being possible consequences of regular smoking, and there are preliminary indications that the prevalence of mouth, larynx, and lung cancers may be increased in regular cannabis smokers.

Cannabis produces negligible acute physical toxicity and no healthy person is on record as having died from an overdose, although it may interact dangerously with brain depressants such as alcohol. Suppression of the immune system has been proposed but not convincingly demonstrated as yet. Street supplies may be polluted with insecticides, bacteria or fungi. Hallucinogens may be used to pep up inferior hash.

The drug causes the heart to speed up and, occasionally, beat irregularly. Blood volume may rise following salt and water retention, and smokers will reduce the oxygen-carrying power of the blood through absorption of carbon monoxide. These effects may add up to trouble for people with heart disease or high blood pressure.

The American Institute of Medicine has reviewed the evidence for brain damage and was unimpressed, although subtle impairment cannot be ruled out. Quite modest doses can impede concentration, coordination, reaction time, size and distance estimation, light detection and glare recovery. Driving under the influence is a potentially lethal exercise.

Anxiety and an unpleasant feeling of unreality are not uncommon during use, and may progress to panic attacks. Depression, usually mild and transient, occasionally occurs. Some regular users become "paranoid" from time to time. They usually retain insight into the cause of the symptoms, which generally disappear on abstention from the drug. Psychological dependence is very unusual.

A large dose can induce an acute toxic psychosis with confusion, memory disturbance, hallucinations, and delusions. This usually disappears over hours or days as the drug is gradually eliminated from the body, but may be prolonged by heavy use. The relationship between cannabis and chronic psychosis after use is discontinuedis unclear.

On balance, the evidence that it can cause a schizophrenia-like illness in a completely normal person is not convincing. On the other hand, it does seem capable of bringing on the illness in those already predisposed, and may worsen the condition of someone with mental illness. Research in animals has demonstrated reversible suppression of male and female sex hormones, sperm manufacture, and ovulation. Results in humans are much less clear-cut.

Cannabis crosses the placenta, and in animal experiments large doses have been shown to damage the foetus. The very limited research in humans suggests that the risk is small, but pregnant women are well advised to avoid all unnecessary drugs. Those unsuccessfully striving to have a baby might sensibly give up cannabis as part of their strategy.

There is absolutely no evidence to support an association between cannabis and violence; practical experience suggests the opposite is true. The concept of the "amotivational syndrome" was built upon a raft of poor science. Chronic intoxication, pre-existing personality traits or youthful alienation can account for most cases of apathy, lack of ambition, or deteriorating school performance attributed to cannabis.

There are major difficulties with the escalation theory which proposes that cannabis in some way causes or leads inevitably to hard drug use. It is true that it can be placed within an escalation continuum, but if the association is causative then one must surely direct one's attention to those drugs at the base of the continuum. Thus caffeine must cause alcohol use, which then *causes* tobacco use and so on. Cannabis is significant as the first illegal drug most people encounter, but the large majority of those who try it venture no further.

In conclusion, cannabis is pleasurable but seems to carry real risks for those who consume large amounts or potent forms, smoke it regularly, or drive a car while under the influence. People who are pregnant, mentally ill, or suffering from heart disease should beware of it.

The true significance of many of the above findings is disputed, and large gaps in knowledge remain. These difficulties result from a complete lack of systematic, high quality research, which in turn is the product of the drug's legal status. This is surely one of the most compelling reasons for decriminalising a drug whose use has already become endemic.

● *Dr Philip Robson is a Consultant Psychiatrist working in Oxford. His book* Forbidden Drugs *has recently been published by Oxford University Press, £9.99.*

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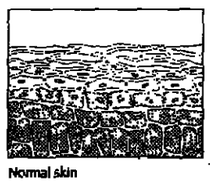


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Janet Daley



■ Could a new kind of orphanage provide a proper home for today's neglected children?

Trust American politicians to say the unsayable. The Republicans who romped home in the last congressional elections are bent on overturning liberal orthodoxy, sensing that the United States is set to reinvent itself again. Their latest venture into the unknown is the proposal by the new Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich (known to Washington chatterers as the Antichrist), that orphanages may be a solution to the catastrophic collapse of parenting in the American underclass. The very word "orphanage" carries historical baggage which automatically casts anyone who utters it favourably into outer darkness.

Democrats are gleefully sniggering about *Oliver Twist*, and Hillary Clinton has called the suggestion "unbelievable and absurd". The orphanage of popular folk memory is a Victorian conception. Linked to the poorhouse, with its penal connotations, it seems to belong in a moral framework of sanctimoniousness and snobbery. As well as the stigma of destitution, orphans were generally assumed to be illegitimate: born in shame and fit mainly for servitude. But institutions for abandoned children existed long before the Victorians, who had a peculiarly vindictive approach to social enforcement.

The most famous of the early benefactors of needy children in Britain was Captain Thomas Coram, who created the Foundling Hospital in 1742 to rescue the homeless infants of London "left to die on dunghills". Most of these children were not orphans at all, but, like Mr Gingrich's urban waifs, they were cast aside by poor, inadequate mothers. The parallels with the contemporary American social crisis are uncanny. The "crack city" tenements of the South Bronx in which mothers sink into drugged stupor while their children roam the dangerous streets had their equivalent in 18th-century London.

Then, "fallen" women drifted into debauchery and addiction to gin, which was plentiful and cheap. Not for nothing was it called "mother's ruin". (The imposition of high duties on spirits, which still remains, was a deliberate attempt to put them beyond the reach of the corrupted lower classes.)

Hogarth, who was intensely concerned about the plight of such women (his famous etching *Gin Lane* shows a baby dropping from its drunken mother's arms), was a patron of Coram's Hospital. With a choir conducted by Handel and paintings donated by Reynolds and Gainsborough, it became a fashionable place to visit and support.

Many of the children who left Coram's Hospital went on to lead very successful lives. Desperately impoverished mothers were so anxious to entrust their children to its care that they formed clamorous queues at the gates.

But any modern version of Coram's would have to take note of one of its distinguishing features. The foundlings who were accepted were not institutionalised as infants. They were sent to the country to be fostered by stable families, only returning to the hospital at the age of four or five to be educated.

That early experience of family life might well account for their good prognosis. This would be consistent with very influential (if controversial) research done in this century by Dr John Bowlby, who concluded that infants raised even in benevolent institutions would suffer inevitably from "maternal deprivation".

Bonding with one mother figure in babyhood was deemed crucial to the healthy development of personality. Even if you do not go all the way with Bowlby's insistence on the need for a single mothering relationship, there can be no doubt that impersonal care — however well-intentioned — is not what babies are designed for.

> Some adults may have to be branded unfit to be parents

All things being equal, there is a lot to be said for the modern social policy that mothers and infants should be kept together whenever possible: that the emotional tie which binds even an inadequate family is preferable to no emotional ties at all.

Which still leaves the appalling question of what to do when the "mothering" which a child is receiving in its "family" is a caricature of the words. In the United States — and to a lesser extent in Britain — there is now a section of the child population growing up in brutal neglect. Armies of social workers attempt to police homes where children are (in the official jargon) "at risk".

Social work training now revolves around the proposition that dysfunctional families must be supported and helped to stay together. Occasionally, this conviction has fatal results. More often, it leads simply to grotesque unhappiness and undetected abuse.

But if we take it upon ourselves to remove these children to some official sanctuary, then we have an absolute moral responsibility for their well-being. Who among us will have the confidence of a Thomas Coram — not only to rear and protect children who do not belong to us, but to condemn a class of adults as unfit even to raise their own young?



Time for a new leader

Richard Ryder has whipped up more dissent than actually exists among Tories

William Rees-Mogg

I have before me a copy of the letter Richard Ryder sent to Teresa Gorman, one of the eight dissenting members. "Government Chief Whip, 12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA, 28th November, 1994. Dear Teresa, You took a deliberate decision not to support the Government in the Division Lobbies tonight on what you knew to be a vote of confidence. A general election would have taken place if this vote had been lost. Consequently the Conservative Party whip has been withdrawn from you. Yours Richard."

Precisely eight days after that letter was written, the Government was defeated by the dissenters on the issue of raising the VAT on fuel. What else did Richard Ryder expect? By removing the whip from the eight, which was followed by the honourable resignation of the whip by Richard Body, he destroyed the Conservative majority, and created a new group, which, together with the Ulster Unionists, holds the balance of power in the House of Commons. One need not be a Gormanite to see that this was a mistake. No Chief Whip before has ever destroyed a working parliamentary majority in one night of folly, for no good reason.

One half plausible reason, though I do not think it can be called a good one, has been suggested by some of the Government's friends. It is alleged that the decision to make the European funding vote an issue of confidence was a trap, into which the rebels fell. The real anxiety was that the necessary 34 Conservative MPs would write to the chairman of the 1922 Committee asking for a leadership election; it was feared that Norman Lamont might poll well against John Major. By taking the whip away from a group of eight Euro-sceptics, such a move was blocked: there could not be enough signatories. In fact no leadership election did occur.

This would at least make the decision appear rational. But even if this were so, the immediate danger of a leadership election was averted at the cost of creating a new group, which has the Government's majority at its mercy. The City is sometimes accused of "short-termism", but this was political short-termism to an extreme degree. The question now is how the new group will use its power. It will obviously behave like any other parliamentary party. It will bargain with its support, either on particular votes or in the longer term. There will be a price for each difficult vote, and there will be a higher price for taking back the whip and restoring the Government's overall majority.

Presumably Richard Ryder himself will have to go. He has failed spectacularly in the very central part of his job. He did not even have the sense to write an agreeable letter. "Dear Teresa, You know how much I have valued working with you as an outstanding parliamentary colleague and friend. I'm afraid your decision to vote against the Government on a confidence issue has created a serious difficulty. I shall not be able to continue to send you the Conservative whip, though I hope these difficulties can soon be resolved. We need to have your powerful armament fighting with us and not against us. Your affectionate friend, Richard." Such hypocrisy is a necessary professional skill for a Chief Whip, and Richard Ryder's curt note fell far short of professional competence. If a chief whip has not even mastered the art of social hypocrisy, what good is he?

However it is neither here nor there whether Richard Ryder goes or stays as Chief Whip. He has only done as he was told. He reminds me of Lord Chesterfield's rebuke to Garter King of Arms: "You silly man, you don't even understand your own silly business." The question now is not of Ryder or no Ryder, it is of Major or no Major. Can the Conservative Party woo back the dissenters without losing the Prime Minister who decided to throw them out?

Many Conservative MPs, and even more Conservatives in the country, have come to believe that the party will not recover under John Major's leadership. That is not a universal view; there are still genuine Major loyalists about. His critics recognise that he is a decent man. Yet he is widely thought to be uninspiring, no leader, a poor public speaker, indecisive, tactically inept, lacking in vision, over-promoted. He is also regarded as out of touch with his supporters in the country, most of whom would prefer a more clear cut policy on Europe. If the dissenters were to make John Major's leadership the price of their reconciliation, they would not lack support from Conservatives in the country, from Conservatives who do still take the whip, from the press or from the opinion polls, which remain extraordinarily bad. There is a sense in which the nine rebels probably represent Tory opinion better than the 321 Tory members still taking the whip.

Yet the question goes wider than the leadership. A mere personal change at the top would do little to restore public confidence in Conservative government. What is needed is a much broader reconciliation inside the party, in Parliament and in the country, on policies and on personalities. The leadership question is subordinate to this broader reconciliation. There are relatively few irreconcilable differences inside the Conservative Party, either in the country or at Westminster, over the great issues of policy such as Europe, the economy and social expenditure. A very small number of Conservative MPs want to withdraw from the European Community; perhaps even fewer support Euro-federalism. Neither Teddy Taylor nor Hugh Dykes is an army in himself. The great majority of Tories want to remain members of the European Community, but do not want to give more power either to its parliament or the Commission; they want tougher scrutiny of European expenditure, with an end to fraud, and determined resistance, by veto when necessary, to further Euro-federalist proposals. They want Britain to take a tough line in the 1996 negotiations. This is indeed the formal position of the Cabinet, but it is also the position of Bill Cash.

The Maastricht treaty and entry to the exchange-rate mechanism destroyed confidence in the Government's European policy. Many of the Euro-sceptics were recruited by Maastricht — a bad treaty forced through Parliament against the grain of the Conservative Party. The Government has repeatedly behaved in a way that smacked of appeasement of the Euro-federalists. The vote to increase Britain's contribution to Europe could easily have been made conditional on tougher action against fraud, as the Labour amendment suggested. Making rejection of the Labour amendment a matter of confidence was bound to make the Euro-sceptics even more distrustful. It was absurd.

Few Tories object to the Budget, though they objected, not unreasonably, to more VAT on fuel. Most Tories support the welfare state, though they believe that it needs reform: they want to move back towards balanced budgets, and support a gradualist policy of reducing government expenditure as a proportion of national earnings. They want sound finance. All of these things form part of the Chancellor's policy. In an atmosphere of trust, the marginal questions would not divide the party; they do so now only because trust has been lost. Nothing can be expected to go well until it is restored.

There is talent in all sections of the parliamentary party, and among the nine dissenters as well. In the old days, in the more tolerant Churchill and Macmillan years, varied talents from all sections of the party would have been drawn into government. Now there seems to be only one route to office: that of the professional loyalist who sucks up to the whips. Indeed far too many ministers (though no women) have served in the whips' office itself. In the old days, becoming a whip was regarded as incompatible with the dignity and independence of a serious politician. A former Chief Whip expected to retire after a year or two as minister of works to become Governor of the Bahamas.

Reaching an agreed policy on Europe, confirming agreed policies on the economy and the welfare state, broadening the basis of the Government to include those whom the whips have found too independent for their liking, persuading the nine to take back the whip (so restoring the Conservative majority), winning back the trust of the party in Parliament and the country — these are not impossible tasks. But they call for a leadership which John Major — for all his decency — has been unable to provide. Whether there is a leader capable of reuniting the Tory party, is not certain, but it is fairly clear what he or she would need to do.

The best PM they have got

Major is trapped in a political limbo, says **Peter Riddell**

John Major is condemned to survive — never able to assert his authority or escape the frustrations and constraints of leading a fractious Tory party. He is not short of enemies or possible successors. But none at present looks ready to take decisive action. There was a sense of fatalistic restlessness among Tory MPs yesterday.

An outright leadership challenge cannot occur until next autumn. Mr Major is fortunate that the VAT vote was this Tuesday, rather than a week earlier, before the deadline for a possible contest. That leaves the options of self-immolation or revolt. Mr Major could give up, fed up with the humiliations inflicted on him by rebel MPs. Though Mr Major can be prone to self-pity, he is determined not to be pushed out. He was in defiant form yesterday, and is in no mood to be conciliatory to his critics.

A large group of disaffected backbenchers could send a letter demanding a change of leadership to the Chief Whip. Alternatively, some senior ministers could threaten to resign together, in effect breaking up the Cabinet — as might have happened if Baroness Thatcher had insisted upon standing in the second ballot of the leadership contest four years ago. These possibilities — the captains' or the generals' revolt — depend on the willingness of the dissenters to take a high risk and go public with their opposition. That is unlikely.

Last week, Mr Major's critics could not muster the 34 MPs needed to trigger a contest. The Cabinet Euro-sceptics — Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley and John Redwood — are unhappy with the party managers' tactics and favour an early restoration of the whip to the European rebels. But they are not about to mount a coup. The often-mentioned option of the "men in grey suits", senior party worthies, telling Mr Major to go is a myth. It has never happened and there are few such elder statesmen around now.

Mr Major's critics are also doubtful about the alternatives. One of the dispossessed, who lost the Tory whip last week, commented yesterday, with resignation rather than enthusiasm, that he could see no alternative to Mr Major. The right do not believe Mr Portillo could win in the short-term, though he might become a central figure in any post-Major Government.

Neither of the two front-runners is sufficiently appealing to the right. Kenneth Clarke is suspect for his pro-European views, and the events of the past ten days have renewed long-standing doubts about his tactical judgment. His bluff rumbustiousness did not succeed over VAT. Michael Heseltine has not been damaged by this week's shambles. But he had to retreat over Post Office privatisation a month ago and some MPs wonder whether he has lost his old fire.

Some on the Tory left are disillusioned with Mr Major and would be content with either Mr Clarke or Mr Heseltine. But they are wary of allying themselves with the Euro-sceptics. While Mr Clarke has wide support on the centre-left, there is no real Clarke cabal and he is no conspirator. He takes events as they come. More of Mr Heseltine's supporters are conspirators, dating back to his wilderness years from 1986 until 1990. Many are discontented because they were not given office when he returned to the Cabinet. But Mr Heseltine himself has changed. In the past, he seemed consumed with ambition to become Prime Minister. Since his heart attack last year he has been more detached, not actively seeking the top post but available if by some chance the opportunity arose. He has become like the mellower James Callaghan was in the mid-1970s, also after a serious illness, before he took over from Harold Wilson.

The political reverses suffered by Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine need not rule them out as possible successors. Such setbacks have not been insuperable obstacles in the past. Winston Churchill was as implicated as Neville Chamberlain in the disaster of the Norway campaign in 1940, yet that did not prevent him from taking over as Prime Minister. Similarly, Harold Macmillan was more closely involved than R.A. Butler in the decisions leading to the Suez fiasco in 1956 but emerged unscathed to succeed Anthony Eden.

In the short-term, Jonathan Aitken was right to suggest that "tempers and fevers" should cool. After the completion of the European budget bill, there should be fewer contentious issues in the Commons. But even Mr Major's resilience, and the caution of his critics, would be tested by a repeat of the setbacks of the past ten days. The lasting legacy of Tuesday's vote and the Post Office retreat may be even greater aversion to risk in face of possible revolts. The Government's programme will be constrained by the lowest common denominator of the populist prejudices of the Winterton family (Nicholas and Ann). Mr Major will struggle on, hoping for the benefits of economic recovery and claiming turning points which turn out to be illusory.

Piping down

A BLASTER of a row is shaking the spires of Oxford. It centres on plans to replace the organ in the Sheldonian Theatre, the ceremonial centre of the university, with a computerised, electronic keyboard. The university's ruling Hebdomadal Council made the decision at a secret meeting this week. Musicians have wind of the plan and are pulling out all stops to prevent it.

Sir Christopher Wren's rotunda has housed an organ since it was built in the 1660s. The present organ is in a state of disrepair, wheezing and leaking, and there is outrage at the prospect of loudspeakers replacing genuine organ pipes. Dons have complained of an ice-rink mentality.

"I do not approve of the decision," says Brian Trowell, Professor of Music. "The organ is used essentially as a ceremonial instrument about 15 times a year but sometimes plays with orchestras. I do not think the issue is dead yet."

The university is reluctant to discuss the matter, but enthusiasts of the computer argue that a new organ would cost at least £500,000. Their electronic alternative comes in at a mere £40,000 — and the speakers would be hidden.

● *Sir Tim Rice claims to have established a first in airline history. He asked to be downgraded from First Class to Club on a flight back from Los Angeles this week — because he could not tolerate the individual sitting next to him.*

Beyond Ken

KENNETH Clarke's misery after losing the vote on VAT can only have been compounded by the temporary absence from the Treasury of his long-standing friend and special adviser Tessa Keswick, daughter of Lord Lovat.



Keswick, who has worked with Clarke since 1989, has been away from Whitehall since the Conservative Party conference in October, and she is not expected to return until after Christmas. I understand she is attending to family matters after the tragic deaths earlier this year of her two brothers Andrew and Simon Fraser. Debts now saddle the family and there is a strong possibility that the family estate in Scotland will be sold next spring.

● *The judge who ordered a pensioner to pay £4,000 to a burglar he peppered with a shotgun has a literary background. Mr Justice Rougier is the son of historical novelist Georgette Heyer — whose dashing heroes were inclined to horsewhip miscreants rather than compensate them financially.*

Offal nice

HEARTENING to hear that our diplomats will be looking after themselves this Christmas. A freezer-full of the highest quality meats is being flown from a first-class butcher in Oxford to our High Commisioner in Nicosia, David Madden.

Renowned sausage-making team Tony and Merle Alcock have put together an offal-filled shipment which includes beef, wild blue pig, lamb, pheasant, venison, strings of sausages and pounds of bacon (prime back). Its weight was a rasher or two short of 400lb.

"It has been quite complicated to arrange and there was a lot of red tape at first, but it was cheaper to transport than you would think," says Merle Alcock. "It's the second time we've done a delivery to Cyprus for them." In August, the Madden household received more than 440lb of meat.

Return trip

THE SCOTTISH war artist Peter Howson has been asked to return to Bosnia by the republic's Prime Minister, Doctor Haris Silajdic. I understand that Silajdic was overpowered by Howson's exhibition of Bosnian war paintings during a recent visit to London.

Howson, 36, said: "Dr Silajdic said he liked the power of the paintings because they showed the real Bosnia. He and the Minister of Defence now want me to come back as their guest. They are offering to take me to places which are difficult to get to — areas which I didn't visit the last time. It's great to be asked and I am mulling it over."



On song: Showaddywaddy

Howson first visited Bosnia in June 1993 as the Imperial War Museum's official war artist. And the Bosnian Prime Minister is not the only one to have been impressed by his work. Over the past few years his haunting canvases have been sold to Madonna, Sly Stallone, Bob Geldof and Dawn French, among others.

Unsteady Ed

WALLOWING in nostalgia on Tuesday night was Prince Edward. The frisky royal was cavorting unashamedly across the dance floor at London's Grosvenor House hotel, first to soul numbers by The Supremes, and then to the thumping beat of the 1970s teddy boys, Showaddywaddy.

At the Christmas party to celebrate the Duke of Edinburgh's awards scheme, where revellers fought off a blizzard of party poppers and streamers, Prince Edward entertained a string of different ladies in turn. He threw himself with such gusto into a couple of numbers with his girlfriend Sophie Rhys Jones, that fellow guests remarked on the princely dance step: jerky and exuberant, far from co-ordinated.

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

ON THE ROPES

Major should restore unity by inviting back the rebels

Politics are not quite as stark as a boxing match. The Queensberry Rules state that, for a knock-out, the loser merely has to be down for a count of ten. But if he is reeling, covered in blood and clearly incapable of carrying on, the referee can still declare a technical knock-out. Any impartial observer of John Major's political health after Tuesday night's body blows would judge *him* close to enforced retirement.

The Prime Minister now leads a minority Government which cannot choose how to raise its own revenue. There is a party within his party which is out of his control and hostile to his leadership. He has no weapons left to use against the rebels. He faces a landslide defeat in next week's Dudley West by-election. And tomorrow, instead of gathering in advance of the European summit in Essen, he will more likely be at home, attending to his domestic difficulties. For a man who prefers the company of fellow Prime Ministers to that of his own colleagues, such a humiliation will be hard to bear.

When Mr Major withdrew the whip from eight rebels last week, he calculated that they would subsequently behave well in order to earn back their privileges. He must also have reckoned that their constituency associations would put pressure on them to do so. ... underestimated quite how personal their animosity had become and how evangelical was their crusade. Moreover, he chose to challenge them on the two issues — Europe and VAT on fuel — on which his views and those of party activists were most opposed.

Mr Major now has to decide how to treat the whipless mutineers. Should their behaviour on Tuesday night make it less likely that they be brought back into the fold? Or should the whip be restored quickly, in recognition that the rebels have proved they can hurt the Prime Minister more than he can hurt them? Mr Major may be able to struggle on with the support of the Ulster Unionists; or he may face another showdown like the VAT vote, on which the Unionists change sides. The uncertainty will cast a long shadow over his Government.

The alternative would be to change course. After his defeat, a dose of humility from Mr Major might turn out to be more successful than further posturing. Were he to offer the Euro-rebels the promise of a referendum on any substantial constitutional changes arising from the 1996 intergovernmental conference and at the same time invite them to rejoin the party, he might be able to draw a line under the past two weeks and achieve a semblance of party unity and order once again. Back inside the tent, the rebels would calm down. The Prime Minister would win the political kudos of pledging a referendum before Labour does. Tony Blair has already come so close to offering one that it seems only a matter of time before his party trumps the Tories.

The Prime Minister's position is now more vulnerable than it has ever been. Most Tory MPs have no great liking for Michael Heseltine, but if they judge that he will save more Conservative seats at the next election than Mr Major, they might well start to countenance a change of leadership, particularly if a top job were to be promised to Michael Portillo. The murmurings have not yet reached the required volume. But they will keep the Prime Minister awake at night for a while yet.

LITTLE TO CELEBRATE

Germany has failed to further any grand designs for Europe

This weekend at Essen, the German presidency of the European Union draws to a close — almost before it seems to have begun. The German elections have had much to do with Helmut Kohl's uncharacteristically subdued performance over the past six months — a pattern which is likely to be repeated in the French presidency which follows. Modesty has been forced on every government in the EU. After his fourth election victory, Herr Kohl bestrides the European world: but he cannot be excited by the panorama before his eyes.

In the Twelve's search for effective common external policies, the Bosnian catastrophe is not the only failure. On Germany's watch, and despite the Chancellor's personal rapport with Boris Yeltsin, relations with Russia have also deteriorated sharply. The Norwegian "no" dealt a blow to the myth that the Union exerts an irresistible attraction, particularly given the relatively close votes in all the Scandinavian referendums. Even the ratification of the Uruguay Round has been shamefully delayed by legal wrangles; and more America-first policies seem likely in the wake of the Republican midterm election victories, further deepening the already evident transatlantic schism.

Within the EU, growth is at last picking up, but average unemployment will remain stubbornly and ominously high well into 1996. Brussels has endless blueprints for job creation: Jacques Delors, for whom Essen is his swansong as President of the Commission, agonises publicly about Europe's inability to compete with the Asian tigers. There will be much talk over the coming days about modernised social benefits, reformed employment protection law and general liberation of the labour market. Yet neither the Commission nor Britain's partners show the faintest readiness to make the one contribution that could really shorten dole queues — a bonfire of the EU's thicket of existing labour laws. On the contrary, the other 11 decided on Tuesday to introduce yet more regulations, which will deepen the reluctance of employers to take on part-time workers. This country escaped only thanks to Michael Portillo's veto, and to the opt-out on social policy won at Maastricht.

Politically, the Union is shifting. The Franco-German axis, long taken for granted in Bonn and Paris as the driving force behind European integration, is shakier than at any time since 1963. The German Christian Democrats' frankly federalist ambitions for Europe after 1996, made public in September, have had the unintended effect of putting French sovereignty at the centre of the race for the Elysée. One of the first casualties is likely to be a Europol, along the lines of the FBI, to fight what Germans see as a "single market in crime", one of Herr Kohl's key objectives for the presidency. France has flatly refused to contemplate any erosion of national control over police work.

In Bonn, diplomats talk openly of an emerging rivalry between a northeastern wing led by Germany and a southwestern, or Mediterranean, group dominated by France. This is already evident in the troubled EU negotiations on the strategy for admitting the new European democracies to the Union.

French and Spanish demands for the development of a Mediterranean "economic area" to balance the eastern enlargement strategy has forced a dilution of spending plans to help Eastern Europeans prepare for entry. Even Herr Kohl's symbolically important invitation to the six European associate members was stalled for lack of French assent until November 30; and their participation in Essen will be limited to informal talks at the summit's end. There will be warm words about the German presidency at Essen, a suitably fond farewell to President Mitterrand and a nervous *au revoir* to M Delors. These are beleaguered politicians, united principally in agreement to leave the difficult questions to their next meeting. John Major should feel at home.

WHALES OUT OF WATER

Brave land-lubbers push the blubber back home

The whale, as every schoolboy should know, is a mammal. It has hair; it breathes air; its blood is warm. It lives, however, in the sea. Occasionally, for reasons little understood but much wondered about, it decides that that it should join its fellows on the land that its ancestors so wisely eschewed so many million years ago. And the results, as witnessed yesterday, constitute an emotional emergency that puts the plight of a mere government where it belongs.

A beached whale would once have been a cause for rejoicing. When ancient Orcadians were hungry, when mediaeval Shetlanders wanted fuel to light their way to the kirk, when the great nineteenth century industrialist Samuel Crackles was patenting his famed device for turning whalebone into brushes, an event like yesterday's was a god-given opportunity for gain. Today, however, we recognise a whale for what it is, an animal, like ourselves, clothed in blubber, hiding its limbs inside its thick coat like a shy schoolboy who does not want to face the world. A whale is a Jonah, a Moby Dick, a spiritual ally for us all. We do not like to see a whale out of water.

So why did ten whales suddenly come to land yesterday? According to some researchers, they may have been ill, or dying, and may simply be unable to resist onshore currents. Or perhaps one member of a whale family was ill and the rest stayed with it in an effort to help — and all became beached. It is best whale behaviour that if one is ill, the rest will not abandon it. That is perhaps the kind of lesson that is learnt in the ocean. Perhaps they come up on the sand in order to teach us something?

Then there are the more prosaic theories — that parasitic worms in the ears of the whales caused infections that affected the sense of direction. Many whales, it seems, do have ears full of worms, but most of them appear to us as perfectly healthy. Of course, as is the case with all mammals, particularly the human kind, apparent health and real health are not necessariliy the same.

Among the most striking of theories is that of Dr Margaret Klinowska, of Cambridge University, who suggests that strandings take place when whales make errors of map-reading. She believes that whales navigate by using the earth's magnetic field, swimming along the contours of the "hills and valleys" in the field caused by local geology.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the behaviour of the whale-rescuers yesterday was as sure a tribute to man's progress as any event that we noticed anywhere. Fortunately, strandings of live whales are not common. They appear common because they are always reported, because we care about them and because of the noble efforts made by land-lubbers to get the blubber back to where it belongs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

VAT defeat and party principles

From Mr Don Bradbury

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative voter, though now with greatly reduced leanings in that direction, I felt some gratification that a handful of Tory rebels were able to force a little common sense down the throats of their stubborn colleagues in the vote over the additional VAT on domestic fuel.

My faith in parliamentary democracy has been at least partially restored. It seems there are still a few elected representatives who are prepared to defy that most pernicious of Westminster practices, the party whip, in order to represent the views of their constituents.

This tax was so clearly unrelated to an ability to pay — the basis of all fair taxation — that one is left to wonder just what sort of people we have governing us. Ministerial comment to the effect that anyone could reduce bills simply by cutting their fuel usage showed just how out of touch this particular administration has become.

Yours faithfully,
DON BRADBURY,
6 Solway Rise, Dronfield Woodhouse, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
December 7.

From Mr J. W. Seabright

Sir, Your leader today thunders at those MPs who have disobeyed their party whip, and demands that they should stick to tradition, show "unblinking loyalty" and put their party's policies before their own beliefs. Surely, this attitude has done more harm to the standing of Parliament in recent years than any other?

At the next election it is possible they may only "go down gloriously in their own eyes" but I suggest it is more likely they will be seen as upright and honest by their constituents, putting their own beliefs and what they see as the interests of their constituents before the divisive and short-sighted demands of their party.

Let us have more independence of mind — in all parties — not less.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. SEABRIGHT,
Wanwood, Park Corner, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
December 7.

From Mr B. W. Crossan

Sir, Parliament has lost an opportunity to impose a good tax. VAT on fuel is fair, as those least able to pay were to have been compensated for its imposition, and it would have created an incentive to reduce energy waste. The Labour Party's motive in ruining the tax was purely political.

The Government should now immediately announce that the building of Sizewell C nuclear power station will commence. This would help provide for the increase in energy consumption that is now likely to result from Parliament's failure to implement this environmentally friendly tax.

Yours faithfully,
B. W. CROSSAN,
66 Jerrard Drive,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
December 7.

From Mrs Mary Schwarz

Sir, Gas and electricity, unlike food and clothing, are measured in units. Is there any reason why an indirect tax could not also be progressive? Why not have the first 100 units, say, free of tax and subsequent units progressively carrying more tax? Thus, heating a 60-room mansion could rightly be rewarded with a greater proportion of support for the country's economy.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SCHWARZ,
27 High Grove Road,
Cheadle, Cheshire.
December 7.

From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, It is widely believed that Margaret Thatcher's downfall was triggered by the poll tax: I believe that John Major's eventual departure has been hastened by VAT on fuel. Politicians should clearly take note that people will tolerate unpopular taxation, but will not stand for that which is seen to be unjust.

Yours sincerely,
PHIL RIDGWAY,
27 Naverne Meadows,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

From Mr Richard Benny

Sir, What is this country coming to when Conservative MPs put principles before party?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BENNY,
21 Tantallon Road, SW12.
December 7.

Counting votes

From Ms Margaret Paterson

Sir, How can the Government stress the need for technology in business when the House of Commons is still in the land of the abacus? There must be an EU grant available to install "swipe" cards.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET PATERSON,
600 Old Chester Road,
Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Justice that needs to be justified

From His Honour Brian Woods

Sir, Having applied the law to the facts he found, Mr Justice Rougier — if he will allow an old acquaintance to say so — did not deserve the "hate mail" he received (report, December 6) after he had ordered a pensioner to pay £4,000 damages for shooting a man who was about to break into his allotment shed.

I was the trial judge when Mr Newbery was prosecuted, and acquitted (in February, 1989). Either considerately or inadvertently the prosecution failed to ask in cross-examination why he did not take the precaution of looking through the hole in the door before firing through it — one of that rare class of questions to which the reply hardly matters, although it is doubtful if it would have made any difference to the plainly sympathetic jury.

As undeservingly as Mr Justice Rougier, I also received afterwards numerous letters from strangers far and wide, but mine were approving. They conveyed keen condemnation of those who batten on the elderly and vulnerable whom, for whatever reason, the police find themselves unable to protect.

Where the law is incapable of enforcement by those alone empowered to enforce it, there is public impatience with the stricture that the individual must not take the law into his own hands. What else is he to do?

The judge has proffered you some thoughtful answers, even if they do not reconcile the irreconcilable. It is another question whether an injured burglarious trespasser may always have a remedy in tort, despite his determination to be a wrongdoer. That is a field not untrodden by jurists.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WOODS,
Cockley Farm, Calwich, Derbyshire.
December 6.

From the Westminster Coroner

Sir, Within the last 48 hours I have noticed two High Court judges defend judicial decisions in the media. Mr Justice Ognall appeared on a television programme in connection with the Rachel Nickell murder trial, which he stopped because of police methods of collecting evidence (News in Brief, December 5). Mr Justice Rougier wrote to your newspaper to clarify his reasons for the £4,000 fine imposed on Mr Newbery for indiscriminately shooting through his allotment shed.

It is very frustrating to be misreported, especially when there are very good reasons for a course of action which seems bizarre (such as in a headline, say, "69-year-old judge frees rapist!"). But if uncorrected in the public mind much harm may adhere to the judiciary. The Press Complaints Commission would take months to remedy the mischief. I can confirm this from a successful adjudication myself.

A dignified correction, or more detailed explanation, may be the answer. Perhaps the way forward might be for a press officer from the Lord Chancellor's Department to issue clarification, having spoken to the judge?

Yours etc,
PAUL KNAPMAN,
Westminster Coroner's Court,
Horseferry Road, SW1.
December 6.

From Mr David B. Taylor

Sir, No one doubts that if people start taking the law into their own hands the results will be exceedingly unpleasant (Simon Jenkins's article, "Yes, justice was done", December 7). The point is that the law does not seem to be in anybody else's hands: self-help for the moment seems to many of us to be the only kind of help available.

The overwhelming public support that Mr Newbery has received springs from a sense of anger and frustration that this is so.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TAYLOR,
15 Ty'n y Maes,
Ffestiniog, Gwynedd.
December 7.

Cleveland concern

From Lord Bancroft and others

Sir, Lord Carrington and others (letter, November 19; also letter, November 30) are by no means alone in expressing serious reservations about proposals for the imposition of unitary local government in some parts of England. The points which they raise about Buckinghamshire mirror exactly the concerns over the proposals of the Local Government Commission for the creation of district-based unitary authorities in the Cleveland area, concerns which have been widely raised across all sections of the local community.

As in Buckinghamshire, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposals for Cleveland enjoy the "solid support" which Sir John Banham, the Commission Chairman, has rightly and consistently argued must exist if change is to be made. In a series of opinion polls, the Commission's proposals have only achieved, at best, the support of around a third of the local community. Indeed in the latest opinion survey conducted by MORI there was only minority support for any kind of change.

The prospect of fragmenting the Teesside conurbation is strongly opposed by the local business community, while organisations and individuals working in key areas such as care in the community, child protection and education view the prospect of having to work with four different authorities with great alarm, and are profoundly concerned that services to those with the greatest needs are under the greatest threat. Sir John himself recently made clear to the Association of County Councils' annual conference that there is no proof that the new unitary authorities will be better able to deal with such issues. On costs, the Commission has claimed that its proposals for four unitary authorities in Cleveland would save money on the present system, but did not make clear to the people of Cleveland that other alternatives for change, notably that for two unitary authorities based on Teesside and Hartlepool, would save much more. At the present time of great difficulty in local government expenditure that point must be given much more weight.

Like Lord Carrington and his colleagues in Buckinghamshire, we hope that, on reflection, the Government will decide not to impose on the people of the Cleveland area a local government structure which is so clearly against their interests. If there must be change in Cleveland, a two-authority rather than a four-authority solution ought to satisfy the reasonable objectives of the Government on the one hand and the best interests of the people on the other.

Yours faithfully,
BANCROFT,
CRATHORNE,
RODGERS of QUARRY BANK,
House of Lords.

Oil and environment

From Mr Mick Green

Sir, The Government has recently announced the 16th oil and gas licensing round, and has offered 164 blocks to the oil companies for exploration. Over 22 of these are in very environmentally sensitive areas and, following my letter on this subject (November 8), Friends of Cardigan Bay feel this shows the Government has little environmental credibility.

The blocks offered to the oil companies include three in Cardigan Bay, off the Pembrokeshire coast, in an area of international importance for protected seabirds and cetaceans. Adjacent blocks licensed last year are under investigation by the EC for probable breach of directives designed to protect this environment. To offer further blocks for exploration before this matter is resolved is premature at the least, and shows the Government is once again putting its greed for oil revenue before its international responsibilities to protect wildlife.

In a statement accompanying the announcement, Charles Wardle, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Energy, admitted that some licences were for environmentally sensitive areas but said that there will not be any "no-go" areas where oil and gas activity is excluded for ever.

This is in contrast to a statement made by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, in 1992, who said "we would have to accept as a country that there may be some natural resources that we have ... which we cannot and should not exploit for environmental reasons".

It is time the Department of Trade and Industry took its environmental responsibilities seriously and developed an energy policy which has regard to the Government's commitments on wildlife protection, carbon dioxide reduction and sustainability.

Yours sincerely,
MICK GREEN
(Chairman, Friends of Cardigan Bay),
Bronhaul, Pentrebach,
Talybont, Dyfed.

Priestly remarriage

From the Reverend E. J. Elwin

Sir, In all the comment about Mr Chalcraft having to leave his benefice if he marries for a third time (letters, November 24, 29, December 3), references to New Testament standards have been strangely lacking. Jesus was uncompromising: remarriage after divorce constitutes adultery (Mark x. 11-12). Paul also orders that a church leader should be married only once and be "above reproach" (1 Timothy iii. 2; Titus i. 6, New International Version).

In our modern society the Church ought to deal gently with the many Christians whose marriages have broken down, but I don't see how a church leader who chooses to disregard the New Testament can honestly stay in office. Unfortunately the Bishop of Norwich put himself in an impossible position by not keeping to the New Testament guidelines earlier.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. ELWIN,
4 Portesham Hill,
Portesham, Weymouth, Dorset.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 43

Church 'outing' a threat to equality

From Mr S. P. Connolly

Sir, The Outrage demonstration at Church House on Wednesday (report and photographs, December 1), was nauseous and irresponsible. The antics served not to promote any homosexual cause, but merely to generate a frisson of "scandal" worthy of some tabloid newspapers.

The fear of being exposed may seem distant to those happy to be open: they have made their decision to "come out", and are a growing minority. The true route to equality and acceptance involves fostering an environment which more "closet" homosexuals can feel safe to enter, not one in which militancy rules. Society in the future may well become more liberal but it is somewhat depressing to realise one of the greatest threats to equality comes from among homosexuals themselves.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,
STEPHEN CONNOLLY,
46 Taeping Street, E14.
December 2.

Debtors' gallery

From Mr R. W. Leon

Sir, May I add one very good reason for Britain's favourable position in the "debtors' gallery" of industrial countries, listed according to the ratio of gross public debt to gross domestic product, with which Tim Congdon illustrates his article of November 29 ("More tax, please, we're winning").

Mrs Thatcher sold off our nationalised industries. The very substantial sums realised should have reduced our national debt, but instead they subsidised expenditure. It was this windfall for the Government which reduced borrowing: the rise in taxation by Lord Howe caused massive unemployment, the cost of which could well have exceeded the extra taxes collected.

Now that few national monopolies are left to sell, and the price of oil languishes, Britain may rise in the table, especially as a burden of new expenditure has been placed on us by our inclusion in the European Union.

Mr Congdon should bear in mind that what the Government takes away in taxes leaves that much less for consumption, reducing industrial profit and investment and leading to higher unemployment, higher government spending, higher government borrowing and a higher deficit.

Let us not be misled by those who preach higher taxation, for that road eventually will lead to a lower standard of living for all, with perhaps only the politicians as an exception.

Yours truly,
R. W. LEON,
Wood Close, 19 Buccleuch Road,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

Season's bleatings

From Miss M. J. Phillips

Sir, I hope I am not too late to prevent Mrs Jenny Baker (letter, November 28, other letters, December 3) from falling into the trap of sending newsletters to her friends this Christmas.

She must remind herself that not all her friends share the same interests. A devoted dog owner, for instance, would no doubt be fascinated by the events leading to the demise of one's pet — others less so.

I might treat a fellow gardening fanatic to a list of the roses I have planted this season, but would not dream of inflicting such details on everyone. I am often less then enthralled by the details sent to me of a friend's daughter's Brownie badges (only to be found on printed circulars!)

That is where the printed newsletter falls down. Mrs Baker's friends deserve no less than a personal message, however brief, of interest to them. Has she noticed, I wonder, how many of these printed letters come with a handwritten apology added?

Yours faithfully,
JENNY PHILLIPS,
Meadowside, 23 Friarn,
Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset.
December 3.

From Mr Frederick Cosstick

Sir, Mrs Anne Maurice (letter, December 3) is too hard on the word-processor: it can be the answer to a Christmas prayer.

You start off with a newsful letter to old friends in Bangkok or Auckland — in plenty of time — and then you work back via Los Angeles, New York, and Ottawa to Geneva or Rome, carefully tailoring each letter to the particular friends or relations, omitting things of no interest to them, but keeping the essential basic details which it is tedious to have to keep rewriting by hand.

Writing by hand is, of course more intimate and polite, but often, especially in old age, illegible.

Yours faithfully,
FRED COSSTICK,
47 avenue des Sources,
76440 Forges-les-Eaux, France.
December 5.

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, Sir Martin Berthoud (letter, December 3) is exceptionally lucky in that I now have his address and can send him four years' round robins in detail over the period since we last met.

Yours seasonally,
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,
Sutton House, Chiswick Mall, W4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 7: Sir Matthew Farrer was received by The Queen upon his retirement when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

General Sir John Waters was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Mr Justice Keene was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

Mr Justice Walker was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Queen, Patron, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Reception at the Mansion House, London EC4, to mark the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Shaftesbury Homes and "Arethusa" and was received by the President (the Countess Mountbatten of Burma) and the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor (Alderman Christopher Walford).

The Lady Farnham, Mr Robin Janvrin and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Bt, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel, this morning chaired a meeting of the Grenadier Guards Regimental Council at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, attended Receptions at St James's Palace for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General, this afternoon attended the Royal Marines Colonels Commandant Lunch at Admiralty House, London SW1.

Major John Crosby RM was in attendance.

December 7: The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this morning attended the National Olympic Committee Meeting at British Olympic Association Headquarters, the Queen's Club, Palliser Road, London W14.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this afternoon attended a meeting of the Victim Support Advisory Board at Church House, Westminster, London SW1, and afterwards named a new mail train "Victim Support" at Victoria Railway Station, London SW1.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, later attended a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Salvation Army's "Carols at Christmas" Concert at Wembley Grand Hall, Middlesex.

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 7: Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Parish today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Regiment, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Tasker also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 5th/8th Battalion, The King's Regiment.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, a Master of the Middle Temple, was pleased to dine with her fellow Benchers at the Middle Temple this evening.

The Countess of Scarborough and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 7: The Prince of Wales received Sir Robert Carnwath upon his retirement as Attorney General to The Prince of Wales.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, received Mr Henry Boyd-Carpenter upon relinquishing his appointment as Solicitor to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trusts, this afternoon discussed the work of the trusts with Members of Parliament at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust, later presented the Reader's Digest Prince's Youth Business Trust Awards to young entrepreneurs at Lancaster House, London SW1.

Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Chairman, Area Studies Monitoring Group, held a Presentation and Reception at Kensington Palace for members of the group and guests to discuss research and training.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 7: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) received Lieutenant General Anthony Denison-Smith (Colonel of the Regiment), Major Richard Whithouse (Regimental representative at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst) and Officer Cadets being commissioned into the Regiment.

December 7: The Duke of Gloucester this evening presented the Torch Trophy Trust Awards at Simpson (Piccadilly) Limited, London W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Listening Library, was present this afternoon at the Annual General Meeting, Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London, EC4.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
December 7: The Duke of Kent today received Doctor Herbert Wagner, the Lord Mayor of Dresden.

The Duke of Kent, President, the Imperial War Museum, this evening attended the film premiere of 'Liberation', the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Belvedere Road, London SE1.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the "Not Forgotten" Association's Christmas Party, the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, London SW1.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Horace, Quintus Horatius Flaccus, Roman poet, Venusia, Southern Italy, 65 BC; Mary Queen of Scots, reigned 1542-67, Linlithgow, 1542; Queen Christina of Sweden reigned 1644-54, Stockholm, 1626; Eli Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, Westborough, Massachusetts, 1765; Bjornstjerne Bjornson, novelist and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1903, Kvikne, Norway, 1832; Aristide Maillol, sculptor, Banyuls-sur-Mer, 1861; Georges Feydeau, dramatist, Paris, 1862; Jean Sibelius, composer, Hameenlinn, Finland, 1865; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Thuringen, Austria, 1868, Padraic Colum, poet, Longford, Co Longford, 1881; James Thurber, humorous writer, Columbus, Ohio, 1894; Jim Morrison, singer and poet, Melbourne, Florida, 1943.

DEATHS: Adriaan Willaert, composer, Venice, 1562; John Pym, leader of the opposition to King Charles I, London, 1643; Richard Baxter, Presbyterian writer, London 1691; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Edinburgh, 1859; Herbert Spencer, philosopher, Brighton, 1903; Gertrude Jekyll, gardener and landscape architect, Godalming, Surrey, 1932; Simon Marks, Baron Marks of Broughton, retail trade leader, London, 1964; Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel 1969-74, Jerusalem, 1978; John Lennon, singer and songwriter, shot, Manhattan, 1980. Pope Pius IX declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be an Article of Faith, 1854.

Clifton suspension bridge was opened, 1864.

The German fleet was sunk in the battle of the Falkland Islands, 1914


PETER TREVOR

Kerry Taylor, left, and Beth McHattie of Sotheby's with a black velvet and burgundy satin gown worn by Dame Joan in *Maria Stuarda*. On the left is her gipsy costume from *Lucrezia Borgia*, on the right a green gown from *Lakmé*

Dame Joan's dazzling costumes go on sale

BY JOHN SHAW

THE dresses Dame Joan Sutherland wore to conquer the opera world went on show yesterday for the first time since before her retirement in 1990. About 80 costumes, full of first night memories at theatres from Covent Garden to Sydney and San Francisco, will be sold by Sotheby's in London in February.

The auction will also include costume jewellery, accessories, signed scores and photographs together with rare musical manuscripts belonging to Richard Bonynge, her husband. The collection is expected to make a total of £250,000.

During her remarkable 40-year career Dame Joan, hailed by the Italians as La Stupenda, kept many of her dazzling stage clothes. They were stored in the loft of the couple's home near Geneva.

"I love my costumes," she said: "They are so beautifully made and hold so many memories for me. But they are gathering dust in the attic and are in danger of deteriorating."

Dame Joan became an international star overnight after an outstanding performance in the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in 1959. The costumes were designed by Franco Zeffirelli before he became a celebrated film director. They inspired a highly dramatic performance and introduced such macabre trappings as a blood-stained night gown for the "mad scene" in Act 3.

Zeffirelli went on to design Dame Joan's costumes for Violetta in *La Traviata*, one of her favourite roles at Covent Garden in 1960. They included an 1840s-style richly decorated burgundy velvet gown with a black lace fan which is expected to fetch about £1,500.

Birthdays today

Miss Kim Basinger, actress, 41; Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, 69; Mr Julian Critchley, MP, 64; Sir Peter Daniell, former Senior Government Broker, 85; Miss Susan Danby, Principal, College of the Royal Academy of Dancing, 50; Mr Harold Elletson, MP, 34; Professor Sir Roger Elliott, physicist, 66; Mr Lucian Freud, OM, CH, painter, 72; Mr James Galway, flute player, 55; Sir de Villiers Graaff, former South African politician, 81; Mrs Pauline Green, MEP, 46; Sir David Hay, cardiologist, and his twin brother Sir Hamish Hay, former mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand, 67; Mr Geoff Hurst, footballer, 53; Sir Peter Levene, chairman, Canary Wharf, 53; Mr Terry McDermott, footballer, 43; Mr Justice Jonathan Parker, 57; Lord Prys-Davies, 71; Mr D.J. Verey, chairman, Lazard Brothers, 44; Mr Lynn Wilson, chairman, Wilson (Connolly) Holdings, 55.

Inner Temple

Mr Stephen G. Breyer, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America, has been elected an Honorary Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Luncheons

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was a speaker at the Christmas luncheon of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held yesterday at the Langham Hilton. Mr Rory Bremner was the guest of honour and principal speaker. Mr Brian Pearce, president, presided. Mr Peter Bobzot also spoke. Mrs Marjorie Wallace, Chief Executive of SANE, the chamber's charity this year, was present.

HM Government
Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, was host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House for Mr Paul Kagame, Vice-President of Rwanda.

HM Government
The Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in honour of Mr Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for Energy and Industry of Qatar.

HM Government
Mr Alastair Goodlad, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a working luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government in the India Office Council Chamber of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in honour of businessmen interested in British/Mongolian trade.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Christopher Hampson was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Waldorf Hotel. Mr Denis Keast, president, presided. The Agent General for Quebec was present.

British Metallurgical Plant Constructors' Association
Lord Trefgarne was the principal guest at the annual luncheon of the British Metallurgical Plant Constructors' Association held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr H.E.B. Plumb, chairman, presided. The High Commissioner for India and other members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of both Houses of Parliament, and representatives of overseas governments, industry and related associations were present.

Service luncheon

Royal Marines
The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, was present at a luncheon for Colonels Commandant Royal Marines held yesterday at Admiralty House. Major General John Hardy, Representative Colonel Commandant, presided. Lieutenant General Sir Robert Ross, Commandant General Royal Marines, was among the guests.

Cumberland Lodge

The Trustees of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catharine's announce the appointment of Dr John Cook, Director of the Inner Cities Young People's Project and formerly Headmaster of Epsom College, as Principal of Cumberland Lodge from September 1995 on the retirement of Mr Tim Slack.

Meeting

Council of Christians and Jews
The Speaker addressed the annual meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews held last night at Church House, Westminster. The Right Rev Richard Harries, chairman of the executive committee, presided.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Higham Lane School, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, at 10.10; will visit the George Eliot at 11.05; will visit Jaguar Cars, Browns Lane, Coventry, at 12.40; and will visit Unipart Industries, at 3.25.

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will attend a meeting with the business leaders who have taken part in the Seeing is Believing Programme since its inception, at St James's Palace at 10.00; and, will attend a luncheon with members of the Association of American Correspondents, with Mr David Feingold as host, at Brown's Hotel at 1.00.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will visit the Sunderland Youth Project at Cosy Housing Estate at 11.20; will visit the Sunderland Council Chamber, Sunderland, at 1.10; and as president, Chartered Institute of Transport, will visit Tyne Car Terminal, Jarrow Slake, Tyne Dock, South Shields, at 2.45. Later, as president, Missions to Seamen, will attend a carol concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall, Threadneedle Street, at 7.20.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Logistic Corps, will visit the postal and courier depot at Mill Hill, at 10.00.

Receptions

Torch Trophy Trust
The Duke of Gloucester presented the Torch Trophy Trust Awards for 1994 yesterday evening at a reception held at Simpson (Piccadilly) Limited. He was received by Sir Richard Buckley, Chairman of the Trust, and Mr J.C.R. Franks, Chief Executive and Managing Director of DAKS Simpson Group PLC. Among those present were: Lord Aberdare, Lady Buckley, Mr M Day, Mrs J C R Franks, Mr and Mrs J G M Hart, Mr and Mrs G T Janes, Mr T Jones, Mr R H G Kelly, Mr I Peacock, Dr and Mrs D W C Smith, Mrs P F Smith and Mr D G Ufton.

HM Government
Mr Ian Taylor, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade and Technology, was host yesterday at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to mark the Tenth Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Satellite Organisation.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
The Executive Committee and Members of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held a reception yesterday in Westminster Hall in honour of a South African parliamentary delegation led by the Rev Arnold Stofile, Chief Whip in the National Assembly.

Women's National Commission
The Women's National Commission (WNC) held a reception on Wednesday, December 7, at Lancaster House to mark the 25th anniversary of the inaugural meeting held there in 1969. Baroness Denton of Wakefield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office, Government Co-Chairman, and Mrs Maureen Rooney, National Women's Officer, Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union, Elected Co-Chair, were the hosts. The guests included:
The Right Hon Virginia Bottomley, MP (a past Co-Chairman), the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lady Wilson representing Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, KG, who, as Prime Minister set up the commission; media representatives, and friends and supporters of the commission.

West Africa Committee
Mr A.J. Shelley, Chairman of the West Africa Committee, and Mrs Shelley, were the hosts last night at a reception held at the Army and Navy Club for members of the committee, Members of Parliament, Civil Servants and representatives of High Commissions and Embassies of West Africa.

Honorary Consul

Mr Clive Rumens, of Petrak Ltd, has been appointed an Honorary Consul in Russia. He will be based in Novorossiysk on the Black Sea.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Blake
and Miss S.C. Cunliffe
The engagement is announced from Australia between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Blake, of Melbourne, and Sophia Catherine, daughter of the Hon Merlin Cunliffe, of Dixon's Creek and Mrs Duncan McNab, of Analcie.

Mr B.J. Burbidge
and Miss E.J. de Leyland-Berry
The engagement is announced between Ben, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Burbidge, of Wasperton, Warwick, and Emma, only daughter of Mr John E. de Leyland-Berry, of Beaumaris, Anglesey, and Mrs Selwyn Lloyd Jones, of Penins, Portugal.

Mr M.Q. Choyce, FRCS
and Dr J.M. Noble, MRCP
The engagement is announced between Matthew Quentin, youngest son of Mr Peter Choyce, FRCOphth, and Mrs Diana Choyce, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, and Jane Mary, twin daughter of the late Professor Iain W. Noble, WS, and of Dr Mary Noble, of Edinburgh.

Mr R. Peel
and Miss H.M.S. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Peel, of Broadfield, Southwaite, Cumbria, and Hannah Mary Stephenson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rory Clarke, of Cinder Hill House, Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

Mr M.W.R. Radatz, MD,
and Dr S. Ghazanfar
The engagement is announced between Matthias, son of Mr and Mrs A. Radatz, of Berlin, Germany, and Seemeen, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Ghazanfar, of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Mr H.A.C. Reid
and Miss L.T. Blackburn
The engagement is announced between Henry Anthony Caradoc, son of the late Patrick R. Reid, MBE, MC, and of Mrs Jane Cabot Reid, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Lucy Thompson, daughter of Mr William V. Blackburn, of Chicago, Illinois, and of the late Susan Smith Blackburn.

Marriages

Dr J.G. Cruikshank
and Dr S.B. Shatto
The marriage took place quietly in Edinburgh on St Andrew's Day 1994, between John, son of Mrs Anna Cruikshank and the late Dr Alistair G. Cruikshank, of Edinburgh, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.R. Shatto, of Los Angeles, California. Canon Neville Chamberlain officiated.

Party

"Not Forgotten" Association
The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the "Not Forgotten" Association, cut the Christmas cake at the annual Christmas party for disabled ex-servicemen and women held at the Riding School, Buckingham Palace, yesterday.

Ball

British-American-Canadian Associates
The 42nd British-American-Canadian Ball was held last night at Grosvenor House. Professor David Adams, Chairman, presided, and the Chairman of the Ball was Mrs Mary Anne Evans-Laurila. Among those present were:
The Canadian High Commissioner, The Hon Royce Frith, QC, Lord Sherfield, GCB, GCMG, General Sir Charles Guthrie, GCB, LVO, OBE, ADC Gen to The Queen, and Lady Guthrie, Rear Admiral David R. Morris, USN, and Mrs Morris, Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, and Lord and Lady Forte.

Dinner

Passenger Shipping Association
Viscount Goschen, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, and Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt were the speakers at the annual dinner of the Passenger Shipping Association held last night at the Hotel Inter-Continental. Mr Eric Phippin, chairman, presided.

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Psalm 119 : 129, 130 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALEXANDRE - On November 24th, in Bahrain, to Danielle (née El-Khazen) and Oliver, a son, James Francis, a brother for Clara.

BEER - On 1 December at BMH Rinteln to Victoria (née Jaggard) and Nigel, a son, Alexander, a brother for Edward and Jamie.

BENETT - On November 28th at the Wellington Hospital, to Rosann (née Alves) and David, a son, Joseph Declan, a brother to Camille.

DEE - On 1st December, to Jane and Jack, a daughter, Phoebe Jane Innes, a sister for Hattie.

JORDAN - On November 17th, to Jane (née Corbet-Singleton) and Nicholas, a son, a brother for Harry.

KELLY - On 4th December 1994, to Fiona (née Cecil-Smith) and Miles, a son, Alexander Colville.

MOOR - On December 5th at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Linda (née Antrom) and Duncan, a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Grace, a sister for Hattie.

NAWROZZADEH - On November 29th at the Wellington Hospital, to Zainab and Mohammadali Nawrozzadeh, a beautiful daughter, Reyhaneh, a sister for Marzia and Razieyeh.

NORTH - On 5th December, at Sharjah Hospital, Dubai, to Jane and Paul, a son, Thomas Giles.

NOTT - On November 29th, to Sharon (née Noakes) and Christopher, a son, Henry Morgan, a brother for George.

RICHARDS - To Anna (née Pelly) and Nick, a daughter, Benita Frances, born on 29th November.

ROBINSON - On November 26th at the Wellington Hospital, to Bernadette (née Smyth) and Julian, a beautiful daughter, Pamela Helen.

BIRTHS

SOAMES - On December 2nd 1994 at the Royal Free Hampstead, to Vetta (née Bavetta) and Martin, twin sons, Edward Ralph and Alexander Felix, brothers for Mark.

STEPHENSON - On December 3rd at the Wellington Hospital, to Caroline and John, a daughter, Hannah, a sister for Rebecca.

WOODS - On 4th December 1994, to Julia (née Page) and Henry, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth.

ZAVED - On December 1st at the Royal Free Hampstead, to Salma (née Morghara) and Mukhtar, a son, Abdul-Hadi.

DEATHS

BRADY - Father Gerry Brady S.P.S., formerly Head of R.E. at Canon Palmer School, Redbridge, died on 8th December 1994. Funeral in Ireland. Requiescat in pace.

BROWNING - On December 6th, after a long illness borne with his usual heroic fortitude, Kenneth Dudley. So dearly loved husband of Olivia, beloved father and father-in-law of Anne and Richard Hobson. Loved and loving grandfather and grandfather-in-law of Julia and Mark Forsyth-Farrer and of Suzannah and Georgina Griffith. Requiem Mass at St Mary's Church, Froyle, Hampshire, on Tuesday December 13th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if wished, to the Children's Society c/o Mrs H. Heard, Froyle Cottage, Upper Froyle, Hampshire GU34 4JX.

CARR - Peacefully at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on December 6th 1994, Malcolm Stuart, dearly beloved husband of Deirdre and loving father of Jasper. Service at St John the Evangelist Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on Monday December 12th at 11 am. Private cremation thereafter. Family flowers only please.

DEATHS

CHISHOLM - On December 7th, at home, Roderick AEneas (Rory) Chisholm C.B.E. D.S.O. D.F.C., aged 83. Much loved husband of Sanchia and father of Julian, Jane and Rose. Funeral at St Gregory's Catholic Church, Alresford, at 2.30 pm Tuesday December 13th. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation.

DONOVAN - On December 4th, John Timothy, aged 82, of Burwood Park, Walton-on-Thames. Funeral Service to take place Wednesday 14th December 11.30 am at St Peter's Church, Hersham, followed by interment at Burvale Cemetery. Floral tributes by 10 am to Lodge Brothers Funeral Directors, 36-38 High Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8AB, tel: (01932) 854768.

DRURY - Grace K., peacefully in her 100th year, late of Eastbourne, beloved widow of Gordon, mother of Denis, grandmother and great-grandmother.

ENGERT - Peacefully in hospital on Tuesday 6th December 1994, Geoffrey Victor, aged 93 years. Dear husband of the late Kathleen (Panzetta) and father, father-in-law and grandfather. Founder of Turney Turbines, Harrow. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Breakspear Road, Ruislip, on Tuesday 15th December 1994 at 1.30pm. Donations if desired to "Mount Vernon Hospital", Northwood for Collins Ward. Flowers and enquiries to H.C. Grinstead Ltd., 62 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, tel: (0895) 822297.

GADD - On Tuesday December 6th 1994, peacefully in hospital, John Gadd C.B.E. aged 69 years, beloved husband of Jean and dear brother of Philip and Kate. Funeral Service at St Margaret's, Harpsden, near Henley-on-Thames, Thursday 15th December at 12 noon, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign or the R.S.P.C.A. c/o Tomalin & Son, 48 New Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 2BT.

HARPER - Mr Vernon Albert. In memory of our beloved, who sadly left his adoring wife Dorothy Winifred Harper, children, grandchildren and great-grandchild Charles Jesmer Asquith on 29th November 1994. The funeral takes place today at St Edmund King and Martyr, West Kingsdown, Kent. The most wonderful man we ever loved will be dearly missed until we all meet again in a better time and place. "You will always be with us in our hearts. God Bless You. We love you darling."

HARRIS - Stewart, after a sudden illness, in Canberra, on 6th December. Much loved husband of Mary and father of Nick, Karina, Alastair and Ione.

HOUSE - On 6th December, Vernon Howard Parkin House, aged 87, of Colyton, dear husband of the late Peggy and father of Bill. Private cremation. No flowers, but donations to church funds gratefully received by the Rector of Colyton, Devon.

HEYGATE - On 5th December 1994, Arthur Robert, aged 80, died peacefully at Lichborough Hall. Father of Rosemary and Bob. Private funeral, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Bugbrooke, on Friday 16th December at 2pm. Donations may be made to The British Heart Foundation or Cancer Research.

JELINEK - On December 5th 1994, suddenly at home Dr. Gustav Jelinek aged 80 years who will be greatly missed by all his friends and colleagues. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday December 13th at 11.30am. No flowers, donations if desired to Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd, Funeral Directors, 212 Evershott Street, London, NW1 1BD.

LAWSON - Geoffrey John, on December 6th 1994, dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and best friend. A private cremation followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St German's Church, Cornwall, on December 12th at 12.30 pm and afterwards at Memorial Cottage. No flowers please. Donations, if wished, may be made at the Church to the R.N.L.I.

MANRING - On December 6th, peacefully in St Monica Home, Bristol, Edward Vivian (Teddy), much loved father and grandad. Funeral Service at St Monica Home, Tuesday December 13th at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

McCORMICK - Mark Anthony, peacefully at home on Wednesday 7th December. Brother of Richard, Irene and Valerie. No flowers but donations and enquiries to the Mark McCormick Memorial Fund c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 26/28 Fulham Road, London SW10 9ET, tel: (071) 352-0008.

McCARTHY - Isabel, passed peacefully but suddenly away at her home Wednesday 7th December, aged 72 years. Dear wife of Peter and beloved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service will be held at St John's, South Parade, Bath, Monday 12th December at 1.15pm, followed by burial at Haycombe Cemetery 2.15pm. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, may be sent direct to Dorothy House Foundation, 164 Bloomfield Road, Bath.

OWEN GEORGE - Peacefully on December 6th, at his home, Griffith MA, TD, DL, in his 93rd year. Beloved husband of the late Elinor, much loved father of Charles and a very special grandfather and father-in-law. Funeral Service at Ysbyty Cynfyn Church, Ponterwyd, on Wednesday December 14th at 11.30 am followed by cremation at Aberystwyth Crematorium at 12.45 pm. No flowers please.

PATERSON - The Reverend Dudley Grant, M.A., suddenly and peacefully on December 2nd 1994 in Cheam, Surrey, dearest husband, father and father-in-law, brother and uncle, greatly loved by generations of family and friends. Private family funeral at Highgate Cemetery. Thanksgiving Service to be held in London in January. Details to be announced later. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Amnesty International or to Christian Aid.

PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE - David, son of Col. The Hon. Stuart and Mrs. Pleydell-Bouverie, died peacefully 6th December at The Bouverie Ranch, The Valley of the Moon, Glen Ellen, California.

RICHARDSON - On 6th December, peacefully in Oxford, Kenneth Albert, beloved husband of Eileen and much loved father of Jeremy, Nicholas (dec'd), David and Lucy. Family flowers only please. A Memorial Service will be held in the New Year. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Campaign or Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

ROSE - On 3rd December, Charles Morrison, D.L. (of Kenya, Rhidorroch and Herstmonceux), after just four days' illness. Aged 94. A and Ione for his family and friends. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Herstmonceux, at noon on Friday December 16th. Flowers and enquiries to Thomas Rich Ltd., Battisham, tel: 60325) 840049.

ROSS SKINNER - Joan Crawley Ross Skinner of Stockwood and Warninwell, peacefully at home on 7th December aged 94. Private funeral at 11.30 am on Tuesday 13th December at Holy Trinity, Warninwell. "Gladly I lived, and gladly I die. I lay me down with a will." No flowers please, but a collection will be taken for NSPCC, The Samaritans and Wireless for the Bedridden.

WARD - On December 5th 1994, Derryck William aged 76 years, passed peacefully away. He will be very sadly missed. Funeral Requiem at Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne, Bournemouth, on Wednesday December 14th at 11 am, followed by cremation. Flowers or donations for Forest Holme Hospice may be sent to Harry Tones Ltd, F.D., 'Barham House', 31/33 Tower Road, Boscombe, tel: (01202) 394340.

DEATHS

SCHWEPPE - Palmer Dallis Thompson Schweppe died Sunday, December 4, 1994 in the United States. Mr. Schweppe was awarded a degree from the University of Texas at Austin and continued graduate studies in European history. He was associated with the Paine Webber brokerage firm in Los Angeles. Mr. Schweppe was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; Order of the Stars and Bars; Sons of Confederate Veterans; General Society of the War of 1812; Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Texas; National Society of Carolina Rifles; International Oceanic Foundation; Order of St. Lazarus, London; Order of St. John of Jerusalem and The Mary Rose Historical Society, London. Mr. Schweppe was an adventurous and enthusiastic world traveller that included frequent visits to his English and German relatives at the family ancestral homes. He was a professional scuba diving instructor with a passion for marine archaeology and supported the project to raise the English 16th century warship ship, Mary Rose, under the patronage of HRH Prince Charles. Mr. Schweppe is survived by his mother, Kate Thompson Schweppe Spencer and husband, William B. Spencer; sister, Kate Schweppe McNamara and husband, Dr. Dan G. McNamara; brother, Dr. H. Irving Schweppe, Jr. and wife, Pauline Arnold Schweppe; nieces, Anne Schweppe Ashmun and husband, Stuart, Laura Venable Schweppe, Kate Sharp Farris and husband, Woody; nephews, Dudley Sharp III and wife, Jane, Marc Henry Palmer Moldawer and wife, Susanna; grandnieces, Laura Randall Schweppe Ashmun, Helen Tenison Sharp and Katherine Sandford Sharp; greatnephews, Stuart Ashmun, Jr. and Matthew Schweppe Moldawer. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 8, 1994 in Houston, Texas.

WHEELER - On 7th December peacefully at Penerley Lodge Nursing Home, Beaulieu, Kathleen Grace, aged 85 years, former Headmistress at Chislehurst, Kent. Funeral Service at Southampton Crematorium on Monday 12th December at 2.30 pm. No flowers please, but donations to her memory may be made to Leukaemia Busters c/o Diamond and Son F/D, 9-11, Lower Buckland Road, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DEAN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Patrick Dean, G.C.M.G. will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Wednesday 25th January 1995 at 5 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLINTON BANTOCK please contact your cousin Penny, 0494 678057 Or anyone he knows

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OBITUARIES

ALUN OWEN

Alun Owen, actor, director and television playwright, died on December 6 aged 69. He was born on November 24, 1925.



AN ACTOR by trade, with a solid grounding in the stage classics, Alun Owen emerged as one of the handful of young playwrights who gave television drama the distinctive shape it took in the 1960s. Although a Welshman, he became associated with the Liverpool scene as it was developing with the Beatles at its core. Hence, though it is really for his television work and its endless inventiveness that he truly deserves to be remembered, it is through the film *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), the story of the young Beatles, for which he wrote the script, that he is most likely to be familiar today.

An engaging fantasia, *A Hard Day's Night*, taking its title from one of the group's most singable songs, was an immense commercial success. Directed by Richard Lester, the film set the agenda for the notion of "Swinging London" as it was perceived by the mass media in general at that time. It may be thought at this distance that in terms of the second-rate or pretentious progeny it spawned, *A Hard Day's Night* has a lot to answer for. But at the time the sight and sound of the Beatles seemed to herald a new age in pop culture. They were one of the few pop groups who did not terrify the parents of their youthful fans.

As a television playwright, Owen had the gift of being able to write in an easily assimilatable modern idiom, close to the rhythms of colloquial speech. His natural Welsh inclination to over-rich verbal fertility was held in check by his Liverpool upbringing and tempered by the language he heard on the streets. Thus he gave the small screen — and its at that time burgeoning armchair audience — a flood of plays which set the style for the genre and helped to make British television drama the best in the world. As such he has an indelible place in the history of television drama.

Alun Owen was born in Menai Bridge, North Wales, a tiny town on the Anglesey side of the Menai Strait. His father was a merchant seaman. He was at first educated at Cardigan County High School, where his influences were the poet Alun Lewis and the novelist and playwright Gwyn Thomas. But the family later moved to Liverpool and he continued his education at Oulton High School there. This conflict between the reflective culture of rural North Wales and the tough life of the Liverpool streets was at the heart of his creativity. Indeed, visitors to his home never knew whether he would address them in the gentle sing-song of Anglesey or the clipped no-nonsense Scouse accents of his later upbringing.

His early life was an adventurous one. He was only 16 when he married but his young married life was very much one conducted "on the hoof". He soon had to go up to Perth where he found work as an assistant stage manager, the traditional dogsbody way into a stage career.

War supervened and for a while he had to change direction. He spent two years as a Bevin Boy down the coal mines and thereafter had a miscellany of jobs: waiter, lorry driver's mate, ship's steward and warehouse hand.

But his ultimate ambition was to be an actor and after an introduction to the stage through pantomime, he started on the legitimate stage with the Birmingham Repertory Company in the 1943-44 season. Thereafter he progressed to Sir Donald Wolfit's Company, the Old Vic Company and the English Stage Company.

By the middle 1950s he had a thorough background in classical roles, having played in many Shakespeare plays and in Marlowe. From the latter 1950s he appeared in a number of films, including *Every Day Except Christmas* (1957), *I'm All Right Jack* (1959) and *The Servant* (1963).

By this time it was becoming clear to him that writing was his true vocation. He began not on a typewriter but by ad-libbing his scripts into a tape recorder and playing them back to experience the immediacy and economy of the medium he was proposing to operate in. This provided him with invaluable lessons about what is tolerable "on the air" and what sounds tedious and laboured.

The first scripts he actually had accepted by the BBC were for radio: *Two Sons* (1957) and *It Looks Like Rain* (1959). It was to be much later when he returned to radio with a series entitled *Earwig* in 1984.

He opened his account on television with *No Trams to Lime Street* (1959) a title which has carved its niche in the annals of television drama. To it he brought those acute powers of observation and the spare means of expressing them that became his hallmark. He followed it with *After the Funeral* (the title from a Dylan Thomas poem) which confirmed that he was no flash in the pan.

Owen was soon in demand as a writer for both the BBC and ITV in that golden age of the television play, when it seemed possible that the medium might truly be capable of bringing a drama culture into the home — an aspiration reflected in series titles such as ITV's *Armchair Theatre*. That dream tended to fade as the 1970s arrived and television turned its back on its strengths and became dependent on what was essentially a cinematic treatment.

Owen continued to write for television: he made an input to many familiar comedy series, such as the *Ronnie Barker Show*, as well as continuing to produce plays into the 1980s. But the great age of original television drama, to which his gifts had contributed so much, had passed.

Alun Owen married in 1942 Mary O'Keeffe. They had two sons.

RESY PEAKE

Resy Peake, OBE, Corps Commandant of the Mechanised Transport Corps during the Second World War, died on December 4 aged 86. She was born on February 8, 1908.



AN INDEPENDENT, strong-minded product of her generation, Resy Peake's life was generally active and at times exciting, particularly during the Second World War. Never one to see things other than in black and white, she was driven by a strong desire to help friends, acquaintances and even strangers at no thought of the cost to herself, and occasionally perhaps with slightly insufficient regard for what she considered to be unnecessary sensibility.

"Bushie", as she was called from an early age, was born Countess Resy de Baillet Latour in Brussels, the daughter of Count Henri de Baillet Latour and his wife Elisalex, who was the elder sister of Prince Alphy Clary of Teplitz in Bohemia.

Her parents were great friends of the Portland family and she spent most of the First World War at Welbeck Abbey. The Duchess of Portland presented her at Court when she was 18 and during these years her time was divided between Brussels, Teplitz and Welbeck. She was very fond of sports, particularly riding. On one occasion at Welbeck, having been coached by Sam Malthouse, a former professional cricketer, she thoroughly demoralised the opposition to the local ladies cricket team by bowling overarm.

In 1933 she married Harald Peake, with whom she had one son, but the marriage was not a success, soon ending in divorce. In the same year she learnt to fly under Captain Baker at Heston (which enabled her later to be asked by Pauline Gower to ferry fighters to France).

She saw that war was coming and prepared for it by organising lectures for several other acquaintances in first aid, gas and map-reading at her London home. When war broke out this group of women offered their services to the Stretcher Party Transport and were accepted immediately.

Early in the war, she joined the Mechanised Transport Corps, going round the various departments and soon becoming personal staff officer to the Corps Commandant and also transport officer. In this latter capacity she moved their various drivers back and forth from France before Dunkirk.

In April 1942 she herself was appointed Corps Commandant, continuing to run the organisation until it was disbanded in 1946. She was rightly proud of the MTC's achievements and, in recognition of them, she was appointed OBE at the end of the war.

During much of this period, too, she was attached to the National Fire Service on permanent night duty, putting out incendiary bombs with sand and averaging two or three hours' sleep a night.

Almost by accident, she also did some valuable work for the Intelligence Services who then wanted to drop her by parachute into France. This she declined, having a young son to look after, but she volunteered to help in any way in Britain.

Peake's later life, though quieter, was marked nevertheless by her determination to help and protect the people and things she loved — a friend in need, the beautiful public garden near her home over which she watched with benevolent vigilance, or the right of dogs, properly supervised, to exercise themselves freely in Kensington Gardens.

She dabbled with some success in alternative medicine to the benefit of several of her friends and acquaintances.

She is survived by her only son.

PROFESSOR PETER BENHAM

Peter Benham, mechanical and aeronautical engineer, died on November 14 aged 67. He was born on August 12, 1927.

IN 1976 Peter Benham was appointed to the chair of aeronautical engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. At that time the aeronautical department was barely viable, but Benham brought about a swift and radical increase in the intake of undergraduates, and developed close relations with the industry, particularly with Short Bros. Before retiring in 1989 he served three years as dean of the faculty of engineering and a further three years as senior pro-vice-chancellor.

In both these positions he was forced to implement the severe cuts in resources imposed by government policy, though under the vice-chancellor he tried to ameliorate the worst effects by restructuring and increased efficiency. It says something for his diplomacy in those difficult times that he retained his many friends in the university.

Peter Philip Benham worked in universities for most of his professional life. Born in Wimbledon, he was educated at Hurstpierpoint College, Sussex, and — after National Service in the RAF — at the department of mechanical engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. It was the only department which would accept him at short notice after his military service, though he would have had a place at Cambridge if he had waited a year. After graduating with a first he stayed on for a further year to carry out research under Professor F. V. Warnock for which he was awarded a MSc, before joining the stress office at Vickers Armstrong (Aircraft).

In 1952 Benham was appointed to a lectureship in applied mechanics in the department of mechanical engineering at Imperial College, London. He was awarded a PhD in 1960 for research in low cycle fatigue and strain cycling of metals.

In 1963 he returned to Queen's University as a senior lecturer, being promoted to a readership in 1965, and to the second chair of mechanical engineering in 1970. His return coincided with a period of unprecedented expansion in the department of mechanical engineering. It was a period of extensive modernisation of engineering courses and it was in overseeing these developments that Benham found his forte.

He introduced a semester system in the first year course, and initiated a very active research group in the use of plastics as an engineering structural material. In the early 1970s, when Concorde was being flight-tested along a flight path passing over Northern Ireland, he organised an assessment of potential damage to buildings in the area including, in particular, Downpatrick Cathedral and Castle Ward House.

He was proud, as an Englishman, to have been elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1979. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Institution of Mechanical Engineering and the Institution of Engineers of Ireland.

In retirement he devoted himself to painting and music, and to the Church of Ireland in Hillsborough, where he lived.

He is survived by his second wife, Sheelagh, and two daughters from his first marriage.

PROFESSOR E. H. S. SIMMONDS

E. H. S. Simmonds, Professor of the Languages and Literatures of South-East Asia at the University of London, 1970-82, died on November 9 aged 75. He was born in Littlehampton on August 7, 1919.



IN A working life as a scholar spanning nearly 35 years, E. H. S. Simmonds established virtually single-handed the study of Tai languages and literatures, and of Thailand itself, in Britain. His was a unique contribution to the academic life of this country.

Stuart Simmonds, as he was always known to his friends and colleagues, was educated at Lord Weymouth's School, Warminster. When he left in 1937 his father, a distributor of agricultural machinery and farming supplies, enrolled him in a course sponsored by the Institute of Bankers, hoping that a commercial training would equip his son for the management of the family business. But Simmonds enlisted in the ranks of a Royal Horse Artillery unit attached to the local Yeomanry regiment, and after the outbreak of war with Germany was commissioned in 1940.

Simmonds was involved in the disastrous Malayan campaign in 1941 and the surrender of Singapore and spent four years as a prisoner-of-war. These years in southern Thailand in the labour camps of the notorious Burma railway made a deep and lasting impression on him and were to condition the rest of his life.

The ordeal brought its own bounty. Immersion in the daily miseries of fellow prisoners of different nationalities spawned a sympathetic understanding of the troubles and idiosyncrasies of others. Contact with the Thai people in the villages around the camps and a slow growth in his familiarity with their language and way of life nurtured the development of a new field of interest.

In 1946 Simmonds was admitted to Keble College, Oxford, to read for a degree in English Language and Literature. Initially his interests were very much in literature, but his tutors, impressed with the facility with which he mastered the phonology and grammar of unfamiliar Anglo-Saxon and Middle English texts, steered him towards linguistics and phonetics.

As they became aware of his interest in the Thai people and their culture they were also able to put him in touch with the School of Oriental and African Studies where in 1948 he was appointed as a lecturer in linguistics. This was essentially a training post, and in 1951, after spending a year in Thailand he was transferred to a post in Tai in the newly created Department of South-East Asia.

For the next 15 years Simmonds was fully occupied in developing the study of Tai languages, literature and culture, and establishing these studies at university level in Britain. This was underpinned by further periods of study leave in Thailand, sometimes alone and sometimes with his wife, Patricia, which enabled him to extend his command of dialects, especially Lao, to consolidate his connections with Thai scholars, and above all, while living in a Thai community, to maintain an intimate understanding of the way of life and thinking of all sorts and conditions of Thai people.

In London the demands made upon him covered an extraordinary range of activities, from elementary language teaching to giving public lectures on many aspects of Thai culture and current affairs. His consultative work ranged from advising Pitmans on a system of Thai shorthand to cataloguing the Thai manuscripts in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin. And, as his reputation grew, Thai graduate students began to be sent to undertake research in Thai literature in London under his supervision.

The wide range of Simmonds's scholarly interests and the day-to-day demands of his work in London had led to a certain slowness in his contributions to knowledge appearing in published form. From 1957 onwards, however, a steady stream of journal articles and contributions to books began to appear in print.

In 1966 his status as a world authority in these fields was recognised when the University of London conferred on him the title of Reader in Tai Languages and Literatures, and in 1970 he was appointed to the Chair of the Languages and Literatures of South-East Asia.

He served as head of the department of South-East Asia from 1966 until his retirement in 1982. He was for ten years chairman of the School's extra-mural committee. He was prominent, too, in the affairs of the Royal Asiatic Society, where he served in succession as the society's director, as vice-president and as its president. At the School of Oriental and African Studies from 1974 onwards he filled successively the offices of dean and pro-director.

Perhaps the most significant recognition of Simmonds's life's work in establishing Thai studies in London came from Thailand itself. In 1983, to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the development of Thai script in the reign of King Ramkamhaeng, Chulalongkorn University made a number of replicas of the Ramkamhaeng Stone inscription. It presented one of these to the University of London in appreciation of the work done there in Thai studies. And in December 1988 the King of Thailand appointed him Commander of the Order of the White Elephant.

He is survived by his wife Patricia.

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MR. ATTLEE IN SPAIN

SPEECH TO BRITISH "VOLUNTEERS"

From Our Correspondent

MADRID, DEC. 7

Sleep was the chief concern of Mr. Attlee, M.P., Miss Wilkinson, M.P., and Mr. Noel-Baker, M.P., on their arrival in Valencia from Madrid at 5 o'clock this morning. They did nothing but rest soundly until they left by air at midday for Barcelona on their way back to London.

Rest the party well needed. Almost all of the 48 hours they spent in the capital were taken up with speeches, banquets, interviews, receptions, introductions, and all manner of official functions. They were constantly piloted around and had virtually no time to themselves. They visited a hospital, a munitions factory, and trenches. From the vantage point offered by the Royal Palace they looked across the Manzanares River at the battlefield in the Casa del Campo, the former Royal Park. In the Arguelles quarter they saw the damage caused by air raids, shelling, and fire.

They attended a meeting organized by the anti-Fascist women in favour of the unification of Marxist parties; then a luncheon offered to the foreign Press by General Miaja, at which the Minister for Public Instruction, the Communist Jesus Hernandez, and the Minister for Public Works, the Republican Bernado Giner de los Rios, were also present. They attended a theatrical performance, a reception at the Town Hall, and a military march past, being greeted with friendly cheers wherever they went. The only awkward moment they had was when they had to render the Marxist clenched fist salute while God Save the King was played in their honour. Last night, on their way back to Valencia, the party stopped at a small village where the British battalion of the International Brigade is stationed and resting. In the village square, by the light of torches held aloft by soldiers, Mr. Attlee addressed the men, telling them that he was proud of those who have died and of those who still lived fighting for the cause of democracy. "We have been impressed by the organization and the spirit of the Spanish people, and, like you, are sure of their victory." He promised to take the truth of the Spanish struggle back to the English people, and to bring pressure to bear on the Government so that British foreign policy should be changed in favour of loyalist Spain.

The first company of the British battalion has been named the "Major Attlee Company" in his honour.

Mr. Noel-Baker, in the course of a speech delivered at the staff headquarters of one of the sections of the International Brigade, recalled that England had sent out 10,000 volunteers during the Carlist war. "I wish we were doing as much to-day," he added. "I am not very proud of the part our Government have played towards democratic Spain."

As the Internationale was played they all joined in the clenched fist salute.

ON THIS DAY

December 8 1937

A quarter of the 2,000 British citizens who fought in the International Brigade for the Spanish Republic in the civil war 1936-39 were killed, it is recorded by the historian A.J.P. Taylor in his book English History 1914-45. *The Spanish rebel military faction led by General Franco (1892-1975) emerged the victors.*

THE TIMES TODAY THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 1994

NEWS

Major says he will fight on

■ John Major said that he would not be deflected from his course by his lack of a parliamentary majority or continued sniping at his leadership as he battled to regain his grip after the Commons defeat over VAT.

As the Chancellor prepared a package to plug the £1 billion hole in the public finances, the Prime Minister made plain his determination to fight on for what he believed in ...**Pages 1, 11**

Clarke puts up interest rates

■ Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, raised interest rates by half a point to 6.25 per cent to demonstrate his determination to keep a firm grip on the economy after the VAT vote. His firm action won the approval of the financial markets but was greeted with dismay by business leaders, industrialists and mortgage lenders.....**Page 1**

UN troops to go

As many as half of the 1,200 United Nations troops in a north-western Bosnia enclave being gobbled up by Serb forces are to be withdrawn because of a Serb blockade..... **Pages 1, 12, 14**

Red Cross under fire

Anne Smith, a nurse from Needham Market, Suffolk, was flown back to Britain after the Red Cross headquarters in Huambo, Angola, was largely destroyed by Unita rebels.....**Page 8**

Cot death legal aid

A mother whose baby died in his cot aged nine months is to receive legal aid to prepare the first legal challenge to the Government over cot deaths.....**Page 2**

Hindley mercy plea

Myra Hindley will break a seven-year public silence tonight to plead that she has paid her debt to society after spending almost 30 years in prison for her part in the Moors Murders..... **Page 9**

Trial delayed

The trial of a doctor's widow accused of fraud was delayed for more than an hour after an assailant threw sticky liquid over her from a moving car.....**Page 3**

Summit cloud

The European Union leaders who assemble in Essen for their two-day winter summit will find that the shadow of Bosnia hangs over their conversation**Pages 12, 13**

MoT case sentence

A garage owner who murdered two Transport Department inspectors investigating his cheap MoT business was given two life sentences**Page 5**

Berlusconi relief

Silvio Berlusconi breathed a sigh of relief after Judge Antonio Di Pietro resigned but the Italian Prime Minister has obtained only a stay of execution **Page 15**

Freud deadline

British institutions have eight weeks to prevent a painting by Lucian Freud going out of the country. It is the first work by a contemporary artist to be subject to an export licence **Page 6**

Clinton centre-stage

President Clinton is seeking to re-establish his credentials as a figure of the Centre in order to salvage his crumbling presidency and avert a rebellion by angry "New Democrats"..... **Page 16**

Couples at war

Warring couples will be expected to sort out their problems face to face through a neutral third party or mediator under the Government's proposals to reform divorce laws**Page 7**

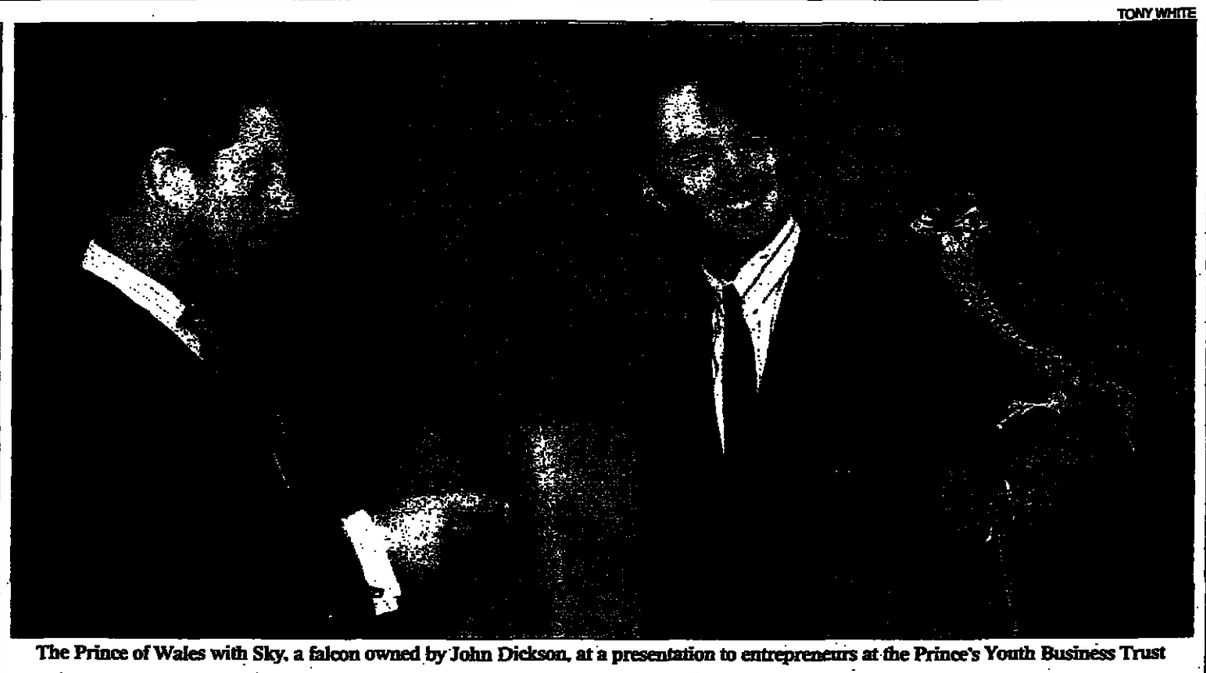
Orange in the red

California's Orange County, one of America's wealthiest enclaves, has become the largest local government in American history to file for bankruptcy **Page 17**

Islanders rescue stranded whales

■ Islanders on Unst, the most northerly of the Shetland Islands, rescued seven stranded killer whales amid gales. The whales, which had beached themselves at Uyeasound on the south of the island, were persuaded to swim out to sea. They are believed to have followed a dying eighth whale into the shallows, where they became stuck**Page 3**

TONY WHITE



The Prince of Wales with Sky, a falcon owned by John Dickson, at a presentation to entrepreneurs at the Prince's Youth Business Trust

BUSINESS

VSEL: Bids from GEC and British Aerospace for VSEL lapsed after being referred to the Monopolies Commission**Page 25**

Maxwell: IMRO, the self-regulatory body for fund management, has imposed £350,000 fines on the fund management activities of Morgan Grenfell, National Westminster Bank and Nikko for misconduct over Maxwell pension schemes**Page 26**

Polly Peck: Asil Nadir has struck a deal with Northern Cyprus that will wipe out his $10 million debts to local authorities**Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 3.6 to 3012.5. Sterling's index was unchanged at 80.3 after a rise from $1.5630 to $1.5642 and from DM2.4575 to DM2.4577**Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Angus Fraser of Middlesex was called into England's tour party in Australia as a replacement for Martin McCague, who is suffering from a stress fracture of the shin.....**Page 48**

Football: Scotland have recalled Duncan Ferguson, the Rangers player on loan to Everton, for their European championship qualifying match in Greece **Page 48**

Motor racing: Ayrton Senna's elder sister is head of the charity chanelling the proceeds from his lucrative commercial ventures into social and educational projects in Brazil**Page 46**

Tennis: Magnus Larsson defeated his fellow Swede, Stefan Edberg, in three sets in the Grand Slam Cup**Page 46**

ARTS

Arnie's baby: *Junior*, the week's big film, is a role-reversal comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger playing a mother and Emma Thompson a father**Page 37**

Phone-in: "Performances by the likes of Meat Loaf, M People, Joe Cocker and Cliff Richard were beamed by satellite, while Luther Vandross and Elton John sent in videos". Alan Jackson reviews British Telecom's misfiring Tenth Birthday Concert**Page 37**

Staged Scrooge: The Royal Shakespeare Company has premiered John Mortimer's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.....**Page 39**

High-art high street: At the Victoria and Albert an exhibition brings together celebrated examples of street photography.....**Page 38**

FEATURES

Leafy monsters: Sir David Attenborough's latest TV series shows that plants can see, count, fight and estimate time.....**Page 18**

House beautiful: What is Hillary Clinton trying to say by bringing in Ralph Lauren, the designer whose faux-English style is widely regarded as the word in American *nouveau richesse*?..... **Page 18**

Pot pourri? Does smoking cannabis damage your health? Dr Philip Robson.....**Page 19**

BOOKS

English baroque: Peter Ackroyd on "a stirring of a native Catholic spirit against Protestant domination", Britain's harlequins of literature and fashion at the beginning of the century.....**Page 40**

Gentle giant: A biography of Saint-Exupéry, pilot and author of *The Little Prince*, intrigues Derwent May.....**Page 41**

Science: Ian MacIntyre on Henry Wellcome, the man behind the mass-produced pill; Adam Zeman on Mary Midgley's moral biology.....**Page 40**

TRAVEL

Flying too high? It's time to bring the expanding British Airways back down to earth, says Harvey Elliott.....**Page 35**

Trouble abroad: More and more countries are charging more for their visas.....**Page 35**

Three black comedians in *Get Up, Stand Up* (Channel 4, 11.05pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond in the thick of murder, rape and amputation — among lizards**Page 47**

On the ropes

After his defeat, a dose of humility from Mr Major might turn out to be more successful than further posturing.....**Page 21**

Little to celebrate

Germany has failed to further its grand designs for Europe..**Page 21**

Whales out of water

The behaviour of the whale-rescuers was a tribute to man's progress.....**Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If a chief whip has not mastered social hypocrisy, what good is he?.....**Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

John Major is condemned to survive — never able to assert his authority or escape the frustrations and constraints of leading a factious Tory party.....**Page 20**

JANET DALEY

There is now a section of the child population growing up in brutal neglect. Which raises the appalling question of what to do when the "mothering" which a child is receiving in its "family" is a caricature of the words**Page 20**

Alun Owen, actor, director and writer; **Resy Peake**, of the Mechanised Transport Corps; **E. H. S. Simmonds**, languages professor; **Peter Philip Benham**, aeronautical engineer.....**Page 23**

VAT vote defeat.....**Page 21**

Many Russians are anxious about NATO expansion. They need to be shown that it can reduce uncertainty in Europe

— Washington Post

Does anyone, including Bill Clinton, think that Bill Clinton is qualified to be commander in chief?

— Wall St Journal

Lloyd Bentsen's voice for moderation will be missed among advisers who are befuddled about what voters meant when they rejected the Democrats..... *— New York Times*



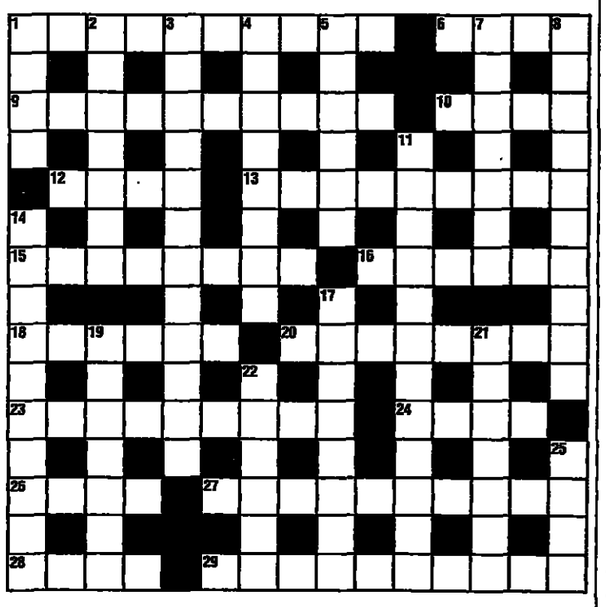
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **CURTAIN CALL**
Benedict Nightingale pleads for Paul Scofield to return from TV to the stage

■ **FOREPLAY**
Philip Howard goes into a linguistic rough of long irons and mashie niblicks

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,720



ACROSS

1 Date of battle (10).
6 Bird not in drag (4).
9 Manual control to unlock, not shut, pub (4-6).
10 Pooh, making a comeback, is brilliant (4).
12 Composer, we hear, is a heel (4).
13 In the gloaming Henry takes wing (4-5).
15 French Protestant starts off homily using foreign tongue (8).
16 The cost of housing books in old money (6).
18 Half of them dodge being put to work (6).
20 Flighty daughter leaves town (8).
23 Demolish a pretext I concocted (9).
24 Pitch-and-toss players (4).
26 Frank makes love to Penelope (4).
27 Engineers request a going-over (10).
28 Penalty conceded by back provided two points (4).
29 Information has characteristic look, some might say (10).

DOWN

1 Catch a glimpse of eastern agent (4).
2 Try to support little bird (7).
3 In this pass, directors are ignored (2,2,3,5).
4 Test tree lights in this (8).
5 Fool can end in the soup (6).
7 Leading firm on the defensive (7).
8 Prophet with warning to impart to the king (10).
11 Learned lady got buckles in tangle (12).
14 Dissatisfied with Cheshire, perhaps remove (7,3).
17 Board admit necessity to be much involved (4-4).
19 Yak, new style (7).
21 The defence obtains a different order... (7).
22 ...calling for haste (6).
25 Girl enlisted in the German navy (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,719

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N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
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North-east England	743
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Hebrides, 0.49in; highest sunshine: Norwich, 6.3hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** a deep depression south of Iceland will remain slow moving.

The associated fronts will bring rain to England and Wales, accompanied by strong winds, for much of the period. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have a spell of rain, followed by clearer weather, winds up to gale force, and frequent blustery showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** rain at first, turning showery. Winds south, later southwest, strong, locally gale. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N:** rain at first, showers later. Winds south, later southwest, strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** outbreaks of showery rain. Wind southwesterly fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** rain then showers, later dying out, snow over higher ground. Wind southerly, later southwesterly, mainly fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain, some heavy, snow on highest ground. Wind southwesterly strong, locally gale. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday:** winds will ease slowly. Northern parts will have showers with clear or sunny spells. Southern counties will stay rather cloudy but will remain mild.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.4	0.02	6	43	s	Lowestoft	4.7	0.02	8	46	s
Anglesey	X		8	46	s	Manchester	5.1	0.02	8	46	s
Aspatria	2.9	0.03	8	46	s	Margate	X	0.04	11	52	s
Aviemore	3.9	0.35	4	39	b	Minehead	3.0	0.25	11	52	sh
Belfast	3.0	0.15	8	46	c	Morecambe	3.6	0.06	9	48	b
Birmingham	5.6	0.02	8	46	s	Newcastle	4.2	0.02	8	46	s
Bognor R	3.1	0.24	11	52	sh	Newquay	X				
Bournem'th	2.8	0.03	12	54	sh	Norwich	6.3	-	9	48	s
Bristol	3.3	0.36	11	52	b	Nottingham	5.6	0.16	8	46	s
Cardiff	3.6	0.40	10	50	sh	Oxford	5.3	0.02	9	48	s
Clacton	6.7	0.09	10	50	s	Plymouth	3.6	0.02	12	54	b
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	2.5	0.09	12	54	sh
Colwyn Bay	3.6	0.03	10	50	s	Prestatyn	X	-	9	48	s
Cromer	5.5	0.04	8	46	s	Ross-o-wye	2.5	-	9	48	s
Dunbar	X					Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	2.8	0.17	11	52	sh	Skegness	X				
Edinburgh	4.7	0.22	7	45	b	Sandown	2.4	0.21	11	52	sh
Eskdalemuir	3.0	0.05	6	43	s	Saunton Snd	2.0	0.23	11	52	b
Exmouth	3.4	0.14	11	52	sh	Scarboro'	4.5	0.02	7	45	s
Falmouth	X	0.07	11	52		Shanklin	2.4	0.23	11	52	sh
Fishguard	2.6	0.05	9	48	sh	Shrewsbury	4.3	0.02	8	46	s
Folkestone	5.7	0.07	11	52	sh	Sleagness	6.1	0.12	9	48	s
Glasgow	3.4	0.22	7	45	sh	Southend	1.1	0.06	12	54	c
Hastings	3.5	0.14	12	54	sh	Southport	4.7	0.02	9	48	s
Hayling I.	3.1	0.12	12	54	sh	Southsea	-	X			
Herne Bay	5.8	0.07	9	48	s	Stornoway	2.3	0.48	7	45	r
Hove	0.5	0.17	12	54	sh	Swanage	2.9	0.18	12	54	sh
Hunstanton	5.9	0.11	8	46	s	Teignmouth	3.3	0.13	12	54	sh
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	2.1	0.07	11	52	c
Isle of Man	3.7	0.01	10	50	s	Tiree	1.8	0.29	9	48	sh
Kinloss	3.5	0.03	6	43	b	Torquay	3.3	0.15	12	54	b
Leeds	5.0	0.13	8	46	s	Tynemouth	X				
Lerwick	0.2	0.19	6	43	h	Ventnor	2.9	0.08	12	54	sh
Leuchars	4.7	0.05	8	43	sh	West-s-mare	X				
Llandrindod	X					Weymouth	2.7	0.07	12	54	b
Liverpool	4.6	0.09	9	48	s						
London	5.3	0.02	11	52	s						

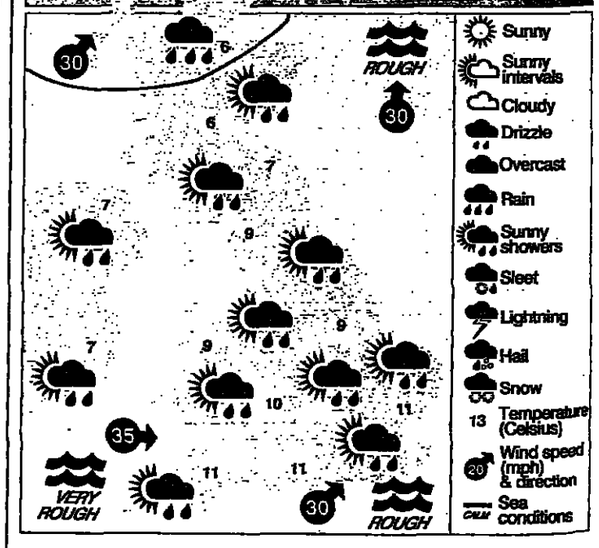
These are Tuesday's figures

ABROAD

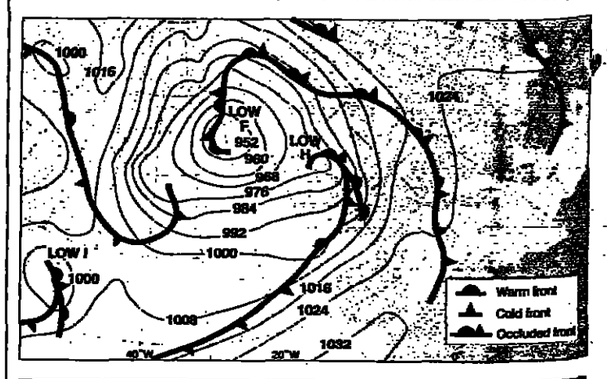
Ajaccio	18	64	s	C'phagn	5	41	f	Madrid	8	46	r
Alicante	15	59	s	Corfu	16	64	s	Majorca	17	63	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	5	41	c	Malaga	17	63	f
Algiers	20	68	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	s	Malta	19	66	f
Amst'dm	9	48	r	Faro	20	68	r	Malta'me	30	86	f
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	9	48	c	Mendoc C	30	68	s
Bahrain	14	57	s	Frankfurt	4	39	s	Miami	26	82	f
Bangkok	32	90	s	Funchal	21	70	s	Milan	8	46	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Geneva	6	43	s	Montreal	7	45	c
Barcelona	14	57	c	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Moscow	-5	23	c
Beirut	14	57	f	Helsinki	2	36	c	Munich	7	45	s
Belgrade	8	46	f	Hong K	23	73	f	Nairobi	23	73	f
Berlin	6	43	s	Innsbruck	6	43	s	Naples	19	66	c
Bermuda	23	73	s	Istanbul	11	52	f	N Delhi	27	81	s
Biarritz	11	52	r	Jeddah	27	81	s	N York	17	63	s
Borde'x	11	52	r	Jo'burg	26	79	f	Nice	15	59	f
Brussels	10	50	c	Karachi	29	84	s	Oslo	-1	30	c
Budapst	5	41	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Paris	11	52	f
B Aires	27	81	s	Le Touet	9	48	f	Peking	7	45	s
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	16	61	f	Perth	25	77	s
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	5	41	c	Prague	5	41	s
Chicago	1	34	d	L Angels	15	59	c	Reykjavik	5	41	f
Ch'church	29	84	s	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rhodes	17	63	f
Cologne	8	46	f	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	11	52	f								
Rome	18	64	f								
Salzburg	8	46	s								
S F'isco	12	54	s								
Santiago	30	86	s								
S Paulo	25	77	c								
Seoul	10	50	s								
St'kholm	3	37	f								
Strasb'rg	5	41	s								
Sydney	28	82	s								
Tangier	18	64	f								
Tel Aviv	17	63	s								
Tenerife	21	70	s								
Tokyo	17	63	f								
Toronto	3	37	r								
Tunis	21	70	s								
Valencia	16	61	s								
Vanc'ver	1	34	sn								
Venice	10	50	f								
Vienna	7	45	s								
Warsaw	3	37	c								
Wash'ton	17	63	f								
Wel'ngton	17	63	s								
Zurich	3	37	f								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low F will be slow moving and fill; low H will move northeastwards and deepen; low I will move eastwards and deepen



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.05	6.9	5.42	7.0	Liverpool	2.40	8.8	3.00	9.0
Aberdeen	5.10	4.0	5.04	4.1	Lowestoft	12.22	2.5	1.45	2.3
Avonmouth	10.49	12.3	11.10	11.7	Margate	3.18	4.6	3.56	4.5
Belfast	2.45	3.24	2.58	3.4	Milford Haven	9.54	6.7	10.20	6.2
Cardiff	10.34	11.49	10.56	10.93	Newquay	8.49	6.6	9.14	6.2
Devonport	9.28	5.3	9.55	4.9	Oban	9.13	3.7	9.23	3.5
Dover	2.18	6.6	2.50	6.2	Penzance	8.35	5.4	9.07	4.9
Falmouth	8.56	5.1	9.25	4.7	Portland	10.05	1.9	10.38	1.7
Glasgow	4.13	4.8	4.25	5.2	Portsmouth	2.53	4.7	3.07	4.4
Harwich	3.06	3.8	3.36	3.8	Shoreham	2.42	6.1	3.02	5.8
Holyhead	1.51	5.2	2.05	5.4	Southampton	2.11	4.4	2.28	4.2
Hull	9.58	6.81	10.04	7.17	Swansea	9.59	9.0	10.18	8.4
Ilfracombe	9.36	8.71	9.57	8.13	Tees	7.31	5.0	7.39	5.1
King's Lynn	10.14	6.0	10.02	2.2	Weston-on-Nze	2.54	4.1	3.30	4.1
Leith	6.22	5.2	6.40	5.2					

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.53 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets 10.48 pm
Moon rises 11.26 am

London 3.52 pm to 7.54 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.03 am
Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.31 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.12 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.09 am

First quarter tomorrow

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BUSINESS EDITOR L

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By Janet Bush, Economics

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

The economic consequences of the VAT fiasco



ARTS 37-39

Schwarzenegger plays mother in his latest film



SPORT 43-48

The sister keeping Senna's driving ambitions alive

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FEAR AND LOATHING IN MIAMI

Travel News 34, 35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook THURSDAY DECEMBER 8 1994

Increase was dictated by inflationary pressures, says Chancellor

Rate rise wins backing from City

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England signalled a half-point rise in base rates yesterday in a move that officials said was taken on objective economic grounds, but the timing of which was intimately associated with the Government's defeat on VAT on fuel.

Leading banks swiftly followed, raising their base rates to 6.25 per cent from the 5.75 per cent reached in September, the first time monetary policy was tightened during this recovery. Major building societies left their mortgage rates unchanged but said that they would have to rise in due course.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said in a statement after his monthly monetary meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that the decision had been taken because of indications that inflationary pressures had emerged as growth had strengthened over the past few months.

Officials were at pains to justify the rate rise on economic grounds and hinted that Mr Clarke and Mr George were virtually agreed that they would raise rates even before the Government's failure to push through the second phase of VAT on fuel. Mr George said in Frankfurt earlier this week that growth was excessive and action would have to be taken to rein it back in.

However, it was clear that Tuesday's VAT debacle was decisive. Mr Clarke said in his statement that the Governor had decided to announce the change immediately "because there were no reasons for delay and he wanted to avoid market uncertainties".

It was decided late on Tuesday night to move their meeting forward to 8.45am from the usual 9.30am, partly because bids for yesterday's £2 billion auction of gilts were due in by 10am. The Bank and the Treasury wanted to make sure any decision was made in time for investors and market-makers to revise their bids.

The meeting broke up at 9.30am and the Bank signalled a 6.25 per cent minimum lending rate ten minutes later. In the event, the auction of 10-year stock went reasonably well, with enough bids to cover the stock on offer 1.34 times and gilts ended the day around ¼ point higher.

Other markets also stabilised. Sterling ended virtually unchanged on its levels at the close on Tuesday after a limited wobble in trading overnight, and the FT-SE 100 closed only 3.6 points lower at 3,012.5. The City applauded the Chancellor's handling of events. John Shepperd, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe, said that Mr Clarke's assurance on Tuesday night that the reversal on VAT would not be made up through extra borrowing, coupled with yesterday's rate rise, was adroit.

Nevertheless, he warned that the fate of the markets until the next election would be determined by the changing balance between an excellent economic outlook and a dismal political one. "Markets will have to learn to live with a disruptive political background," he said.

There were some in the City who questioned the wisdom of another rate rise when consumer demand is already weakening, house prices falling and retailers are gloomy about the prospects for the pre-Christmas shopping season.

Others bemoaned the air of panic in the Chancellor's decision, arguing that he had been forced into an earlier rate rise than he would have wanted by the markets.

Peter Warburton, economist at Robert Fleming, said: "What kind of authority is the Government restoring when the markets have already told it you to do? Who is kidding who?"

Report, page 1
Pennington, page 27
Economic view, page 29

SIMON WALKER



Keen interest: Dealers in the UK interest rate futures pit reacting to the Bank of England's announcement of the rate rise yesterday

Home loans on hold

BY ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

THE rise in the base rate brought no immediate increases in mortgage rates, but building societies and banks predicted that this latest rise would deal another blow to a housing market already disheartened by the Budget announcement restricting mortgage income support.

The Halifax and the Abbey National, the two largest mortgage lenders, said that they were not increasing their rates for the moment, but the Halifax added that the latest movement in the base rate "would inevitably put pressure on both savers' and borrowers' rates. They are likely to rise in due course."

Smaller societies, such as the Yorkshire, were also reluctant to act. Derek Roberts, Yorkshire's chief executive, said: "The base rate rise appears to be a knee-jerk reaction. We do not intend to make one ourselves."

Banks and centralised lenders, mortgage lenders without branch networks, stated that they wished to watch and wait for further developments.

Savers cannot expect any good cheer until there is some movement in mortgage rates. When base rates were last increased by half a percentage point on September 12, there was some criticism of the societies' slowness to improve their savers' rates. When they came, the increases were small, some as little as 0.2 per cent.

Firms rue 'political' step

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders were uniformly hostile to the rise in interest rates, which they viewed as expected but unnecessary, with many saying that the largely political increase posed a threat to sustained economic recovery.

Although many business leaders now acknowledge privately that they were mistaken to warn of damage from higher rates when rates were last increased, in September, opposition to yesterday's rise was as widespread as the expectation that it was coming.

Business, which had in the main forecast a further rise even before the Government's Commons defeat over VAT on fuel, does not expect yesterday's rise to be the last, believing instead that rates will drift upwards to perhaps about 7.5 per cent by 1996.

Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said that business did not want a further rise this year. Inflationary pressures remained weak, and "the timing of the move should be seen as dictated more by political, than by economic, considerations". The Chancellor had had to act decisively to restore confidence in his fiscal strategy.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, said that the rise was "unnecessary and unjustified", and would fuel the City's inflation fears.

The Institute of Directors said that the rise would "choke off" recovery.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3012.5	(-3.6)
Yield	4.28%	
FT-SE A All share	1495.82	(-1.90)
Nikkei	19174.23	(-166.24)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3733.51	(-12.44)*
S&P Composite	451.85	(-1.26)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(4½%)
Long Bond	95¹⁵⁄₃₂*	(96⅝)
Yield	7.90%*	(7.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⅛%	(6⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	102%	(102¹⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5635*	(1.5623)
London:		
$	1.5645	(1.5605)
DM	2.4571	(2.4567)
FFr	8.4440	(8.4370)
SFr	2.0769	(2.0747)
Yen	156.58	(156.47)
£ Index	80.3	(80.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5726*	(1.5724)
FFr	5.4015*	(5.3980)
SFr	1.3285*	(1.3278)
Yen	100.13*	(100.10)
$ Index	83.2	(83.2)

Tokyo close Yen 99.77

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$16.00	($16.90)

GOLD

London close	$376.25	($376.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Maxwell fines

IMRO, the self-regulatory organisation for the fund management industry in the City, has imposed fines totalling £350,000 on the fund management activities of Morgan Grenfell, National Westminster Bank, and Nikko for misconduct in relation to Robert Maxwell company pension schemes. **Page 26**

Nadir deal

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive former head of Polly Peck International, has struck a deal with the Northern Cyprus government that will wipe out all his debts to the local authorities, estimated to be around the $10 million mark. **Page 27**

Rival bids for VSEL lapse after referral to MMC

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TAKEOVER bids from the General Electric Company and British Aerospace for VSEL, the nuclear submarine builder, lapsed yesterday after being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The reference, announced yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, amounts, in effect, to a wide ranging review of government policy towards further consolidation in defence manufacturing.

It was unveiled only hours before Roger Freeman, the Minister for Defence Procurement, urged manufacturers in Britain's biggest industry to seek mergers with European partners. Vertical integration within Britain, he believes, will lead only to more job cuts and closures.

The Office of Fair Trading had recommended referring only the £532 million bid from GEC. Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, recommended against referring the £575 million BAe bid on competition grounds. But he suggested that Mr Heseltine consider "whether the BAe bid raised any wider public interest grounds that justified a reference".

The MMC has been asked to report on both bids by March 15 next year.

Shares in VSEL slumped 197p to 1,338p, 62p below the lapsed cash terms from each bidder. BAe shares were down 4p at 433p, while GEC rose 2.5p to 275.5p.

Noel Davies, chief executive of VSEL, said he was disappointed at the outcome. VSEL wants to be part of a bigger group to underpin the risk of taking on a £2.5 billion contract to build more Trafalgar class nuclear-powered submarines and a £250 million contract for two assault ships.

BAe was surprised to be referred. Dick Evans, chief executive, said: "We have won the competition argument. We will be looking forward to putting our case vigorously." GEC confirmed simply that its offer had lapsed.

Watchdog ready, page 29

Oftel moves to ease regulation

BY ERIC REGULY

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday published what it called "the largest and most important public consultation exercise" in its ten-year history. The exercise, set out in a 71-page document called *A Framework for Effective Competition*, will set the regulatory regime into the next decade.

Oftel said its "long-term aim is to move towards a framework of minimal regulation and market-determined prices". It currently approves or disapproves every move made by British Telecom and its rivals, but would like to be more of a referee. It will seek opinions from the public.

Adnan Khashoggi's £47.7m Lonrho threat

BY MELVYN MARCKUS
CITY EDITOR

ADNAN Khashoggi, the international arms dealer whose private jet has been seized by Lonrho as security against outstanding loans of more than $8 million, is considering launching two separate counter-claims against the conglomerate totalling £47.7 million.

Mr Khashoggi, speaking from the South of France, told *The Times* yesterday that Lonrho's demands for $8 million fail to take into account substantial funds that the financier claims he is owed for his involvement in Lonrho dealings with Libya.

According to Mr Khashoggi, some £7.7 million is still owed to Phoenix, one of his private enterprises, in respect of commission due to him in view of his role in bringing about the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company's £177 million acquisition of a one third stake in Lonrho's Metropole Hotel offshoot in 1992.



Khashoggi's impounded jet at Heathrow airport yesterday

Mr Khashoggi is reputed to have already received commission payments amounting to some £10 million but a futher £7.7 million is in dispute. Mr Khashoggi also claims that Phoenix is owed a further $60 million relating to a joint venture agreement which, he claims, was made between Lonrho, Phoenix and Lafico in 1992. According to Mr Khashoggi, the purpose of the joint venture was to promote the interests of Lonrho and Libya throughout the Middle East. It was proposed that Lonrho and Lafico would each take a 40 per cent interest in the venture and, claims Mr Khashoggi, Phoenix was to obtain a 20 per cent interest in return for his assistance. Mr Khashoggi says that the venture would have been capitalised at $300 million, making Phoenix's share worth $60 million.

In the event, any such arrangements were cancelled towards the end of 1992 — allegedly at Lonrho's request — but, according to Mr Khashoggi, Lonrho agreed to pay him various fees relating to sales of certain assets in Africa. No such fees have been paid.

In his words: "These arrangements were made on a verbal basis with Tiny Rowland. Other directors of Lonrho were witnesses." In reference to Lonrho's $8 million writ he declared: "We were in the process of negotiating a settlement. I detect Dieter Bock's hand in this action."

As for Lonrho's possession of his McDonnell Douglas DC9 jet he said: "I dropped the keys in their hands. I think they were surprised to see that a Boeing 727 was waiting for me."

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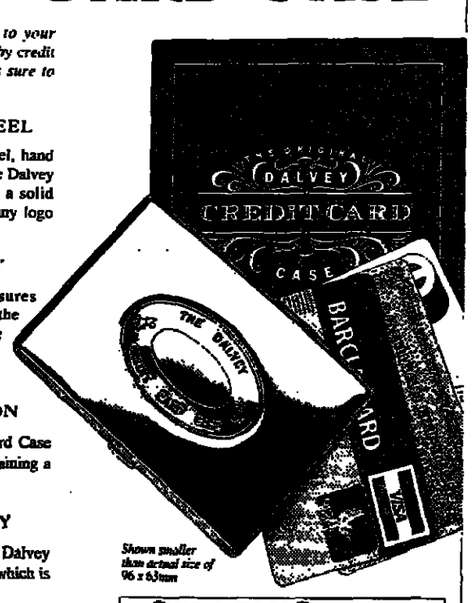
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Signed Exp. Date/.....

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..... Postcode
Daytime phone No

To ensure Xmas delivery, orders by 16th Dec please TIM25

Maxwell pension advisers fined £350,000 by Imro

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IMRO, the self-regulatory body for the fund management industry, has imposed fines totalling £350,000 on the fund management activities of Morgan Grenfell, National Westminster Bank, and Nikko for misconduct in relation to Maxwell pension schemes.

Morgan Grenfell Investment Management was fined £180,000 — the third highest fine ever made by Imro — and is to pay a £95,000 contribution to Imro's costs.

Morgan Grenfell's negligence in transferring assets without the authority of the trustees was found to have caused a loss of £276,000 to AGB Directors' Pension Plan, a Maxwell group pension plan.

Morgan Grenfell admitted that, in September 1991, it authorised its custodian to transfer AGB Directors' pension assets to a new custodian — thought to be Morgan Stanley — without the authority of the trustees. Morgan Grenfell has agreed to compensate the scheme by £276,000, plus interest, if the funds are not recovered.

A Morgan Grenfell spokesman said: "We are being fined because of an administration error which came to light in 1991. As soon as we realised the mistake, we brought it to Imro's attention. That prompted the investigation."

The fund manager was found to have failed to have taken reasonable steps to ascertain the identity of the trustees, failed to forward statements of assets to the correct customer and failed to maintain effective compliance arrangements.

NatWest Investment Management was fined £110,000 — the fourth largest fine imposed so far by Imro — and agreed to pay costs of £70,000 to Imro for negligence.

NatWest admitted that it provided a service to Maxwell Communication Pension Trustee Ltd without there being a signed customer agreement in effect. It also admitted having failed to maintain effective arrangements for ensuring compliance with rules on releasing funds and customer title documents.

Nikko Capital Management was fined £60,000 and is to pay £42,000 costs for three breaches of Imro rules relating to accounting records, financial resources and compliance arrangements.

Nikko Capital Management breached Imro rules when, in September 1991, it took out a £6 million loan to enable early payment to Bishopsgate Investment Management of the proceeds of sales of Japanese equities. By so doing its financial resources were more than £5 million below the level required by Imro rules.

The biggest fine imposed by Imro was one of £750,000 imposed in June last year against Invesco MIM, which was partly in relation to the Maxwell affair.

Recovery in British industry continues

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE recovery in British industry continued unabated in October, with manufacturing output rising 0.4 per cent and the production of investment goods leading the way.

Industrial production, which includes the North Sea oil sector, rose by only 0.1 per cent, largely because of a sharp fall in oil production. Manufacturing production in October was 5.5 per cent up on a year ago, while total industrial output was 5.6 per cent higher.

The most encouraging aspect of the figures was that output is being led by goods produced for investment. This rose by 2.2 per cent in the three months to October, compared with the previous three months, and by 6.4 per cent compared with the same three months in 1993. The Government has long argued that a switch in the mix of economic growth away from the consumer and towards exports and investment is desirable to sustain the recovery. The mix of manufacturing output continues to confirm that this rebalancing is taking place.

Consumer goods production rose by 1.3 per cent in the past three months, compared with the previous three. Over the same periods, car production increased by 5.3 per cent, but clothing and footwear output fell by 3.4 per cent.

The engineering sector is leading the way in manufacturing, with output up by 2.6 per cent on a three-month to three-month comparison and by 7.9 per cent on the same period a year ago. The most successful sectors were transport equipment, electrical and optical equipment, and rubbers and plastics.



Michael Green wants television regulations removed

Carlton switches on to £190m

BY CARL MORTISHED

MICHAEL Green, chairman of Carlton Communications which owns the Carlton TV franchise for London, called for a removal of the restrictions on cross-ownership in the media to allow the growth of larger and stronger broadcasting groups.

His plea for less regulation came as the company revealed that its takeover of Central Television at the start of the year had helped to boost Carlton's pre-tax profits by 51 per cent to £190 million in the year to September 30.

Mr Green said that the current regulations, which limit companies to owning two ITV franchises, should be replaced by the normal machinery of competition law. Larger groups, he said, "would be better able to eliminate duplicated costs, to make the necessary investments in production and programmes".

Profits from broadcast television soared from £8.3 million to £71.6 million in the year. Central contributed £47 million, compared with Carlton TV's profit of £24 million.

A weak share market held back Carlton stock, in spite of the profits growth and a dividend rise of 10 per cent to to 20.65p per share.

Mr Green said that, excluding acquisitions, operating profits had risen 19 per cent. Carlton increased its exports from £161 million to £187 million and has plans to exploit its film library of 3,000 hours. Mr Green said that the *Inspector Morse* series had been sold to 100 regions and the documentary on the Prince of Wales had found 20 buyers within 24 hours.

Profits from video production increased 5 per cent to £66.9 million. Technicolor film processing profits were up 21 per cent to £38 million, while sales of video and sound equipment produced a 4 per cent rise in profits to £22.8 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ICI gains £45m from South African sale

ICI, the chemicals group, has sold its 13.3 per cent holding in AECI, the South African chemicals group, for about £80 million in cash. ICI will make an exceptional pre-tax gain on the disposal of more than £45 million in the fourth quarter of 1994. The decision to sell follows the reorganisation this year in which ICI acquired a direct 51 per cent stake in the AECI explosives division. ICI's interests in AECI explosives and its 60 per cent interest in Tioxide South Africa will be unaffected by the sale.

ICI said that it would retain its long-standing association with AECI through technical and commercial links, and will continue to foster its relationship with South African customers through ICI South Africa, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Anglo United loses £3m

ANGLO United, the fuels producer, lost £3.2 million in the half year to September 30 as interest charges of £10.4 million wiped out operating profits of £7.2 million. Losses in the previous year's first half were £6.5 million before tax, with a £12.2 million interest charge. Losses per share eased to 0.4p (0.8p). There is again no dividend. The company says that it is confident of success with its bid for Coal Products, British Coal's smokeless fuels business.

Mirror Group lease deal

MIRROR Group, the newspaper publishing company, has exercised an option to buy a long leasehold interest in its former headquarters building in Holborn, London, for £27.3 million, to be paid in cash and funded through existing banking arrangements. The lease will run until 2059 and rental payments will end. Planning permission exists for the redevelopment of the site, and the company expects to benefit from any onward disposal.

Countryside builds

COUNTRYSIDE Properties, the housebuilder based in the South East, is gearing up its building programme in spite of a dull outlook for the housing market. The company, which raised profits to £8.2 million before tax, from £4.7 million, in the year to September 30, sold 547 homes and completed 959 homes for housing associations. There is a final dividend of 2.8p a share, making a total of 4.21p (4.11p), payable from earnings of 8.4p a share (5.9p).

Bank of Ireland
Base Rate

Bank of Ireland
announces that with
effect from close of business
on 8th December 1994
its Base Rate is increased
from 5.75% to 6.25%

Bank of Ireland

Area Office, 34 High Street Slough Berkshire SL1 1ED

Bank complaints fall as service improves

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANKS have not gone far enough to improve service to their customers and are often failing to address complaints speedily enough, according to Laurence Shurman, the Banking Ombudsman.

Mr Shurman unveiled his annual report yesterday, which showed that banking standards did improve in the year to September 30. But he said that revisions to the *Code of Good Banking Practice*, published this year, "did not go as far as I would wish" and that there was still scope for improvement.

The report showed that the number of complaints accepted by the Ombudsman for full investigation fell by 25 per cent to 833. The number of preliminary complaints against its 42 member banks dropped by 16 per cent to 8,027.

Banks were made to compensate customers in 44 per cent of cases investigated (36 per cent). Complaints about cash machines were still the most common.

BAe secures $27m order for aircraft

BRITISH Aerospace has won a $27 million order for three turbo-prop aircraft from a Korean regional carrier, Seoul Air International (Ross Tieman writes).

The orders, for a 29-seat Jetstream 41 and two 68-seat ATP aircraft, are an important fillip for BAe's Jetstream Aircraft subsidiary in Scotland. The subsidiary, which is expected to lose £120 million this year, has won firm orders for 37 planes in the past six months, and signed options on 35 more. Output next year will rise from 28 aircraft to 35.

BAe is believed to have beaten off Dasa of Germany, Saab of Sweden, and ATR, the French-Italian consortium, for the business. The success should help BAe's efforts to persuade its European rivals to form a joint venture to reduce overcapacity in the market.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.97
Austria Sch	18.21	16.71
Belgium Fr	53.40	49.10
Canada $	2.257	2.097
Cyprus Cyp£	0.788	0.733
Denmark Kr	10.19	9.39
Finland Mkk	8.21	7.51
France Fr	8.90	8.20
Germany Dm	2.60	2.39
Greece Dr	398.00	373.00
Hong Kong $	12.73	11.73
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.98
Italy Lira	2635.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	170.00	154.00
Malta	0.623	0.568
Netherlds Gld	2.890	2.660
Norway Kr	11.26	10.46
Portugal Esc	261.50	243.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.25
Spain Pta	212.50	198.50
Sweden Kr	12.37	11.57
Switzerland Fr	2.19	2.02
Turkey Lira	refer	53985.0
USA $	1.650	1.530

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Lloyds Bank
Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has increased its Base Rate from 5.75 per cent to 6.25 per cent p.a. with effect from Wednesday 7 December 1994.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

Lloyds Bank

THE THOROUGHBRED BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

With effect from the close of business on Wednesday 7th December 1994 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is increased from 5.75% p.a. to 6.25% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

TSB

TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ.

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

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7th December 1994
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from 5.75% to 6.25% p.a.

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Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND BANK plc, 27 POULTRY, LONDON EC2P 2BX.

AIB

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

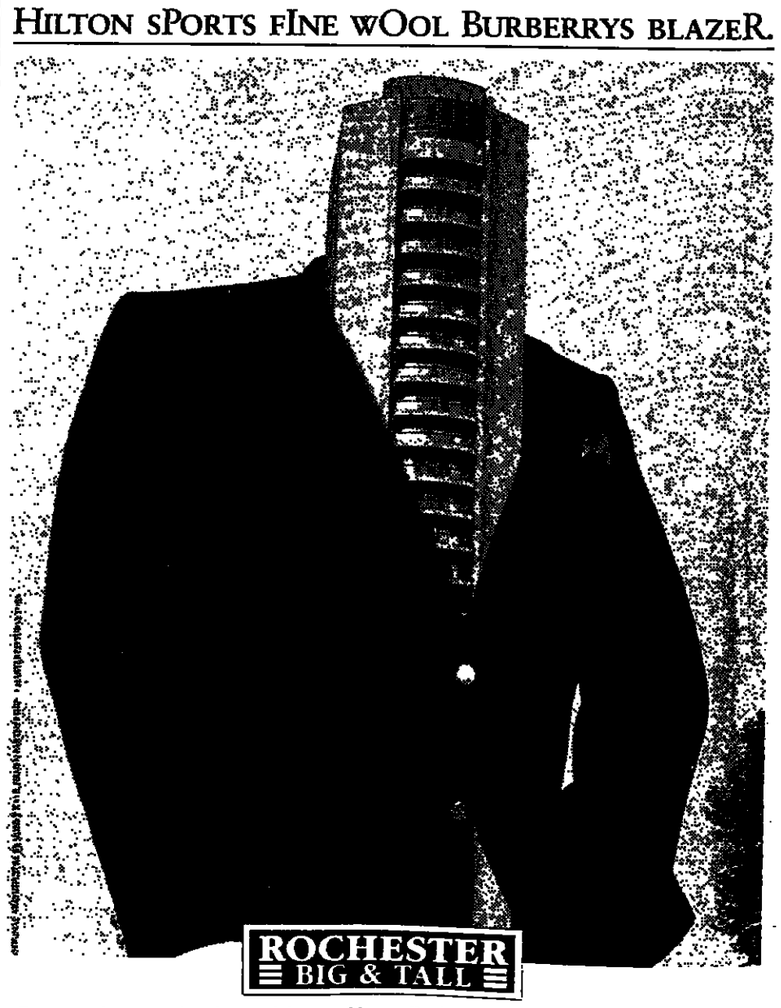
Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. announces that with effect from close of business on 7 December 1994 its Base Rate was increased from 5.75% to 6.25% p.a.

AIB Bank

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☐ Day of drama changes little ☐ Accounting reforms wait for Labour ☐ MMC should lay bare defence procurement policy

SW1 earthquake leaves few hurt

☐ PERHAPS the rebels really should be running the country. At one stroke, the boys and girls whom the Chancellor accused of playing around so irresponsibly with the economy have cut inflation by almost half a point and reduced public spending by the best part of £800 million.

That is one measure of how economically misguided Kenneth Clarke was to stick by the second tranche of VAT on dometic fuel. For future reference of Chancellors, one working definition of a bad tax is one that requires a heavy rise in public spending. According to a recent Instutute of Fiscal Studies paper, VAT was not a particularly regressive tax until it was extended to home heating. That was when a package of compensation measures was needed to offset the effect on pensioners and the poorest. The history of the community charge should have drilled this lesson in. If it is now learned, future Chancellors will save themselves a lot of unpopularity, since tax measures that require extra spending are invariably regressive.

The extra VAT was not even needed on a strictly financial calculus. The public sector borrowing requirement forecast in the Budget was lower than the financial markets, on average, had expected. And the difference was greater than the net product of the controversial tax. Perhaps that is why the markets showed every sign of reacting calmly to the Government's latest reverse. No drastic markdown in share prices or sterling. International investors certainly view Government impotence with the horror that greets any period of uncertainty. But this seems to have been accepted as fact before the VAT vote.

For the Government, however, it was a shock. The Treasury, it seems, had made no serious contingency plans to raise money by other means, as fiscal machismo requires. And ministers feared markets would panic. So Eddie George was allowed his rate rise in double-quick time. And well-considered tax substitutes will be rushed out today.

The rate rise certainly went down well in the City. But that was mainly because it was assumed there would be one soon, either a few days after yesterday's meeting and gilt-edged auction or, more sensitively, after Christmas. The sooner, the better. Futures markets have discounted a 6¼ per cent base rate for a while.

The Bank is looking forward two years and, informally, factoring in those pre-election tax cuts. It is less obvious that economic growth at the current 4 per cent is inflation-bound when consumer spending is growing by only 2½ per cent. The main impact of yesterday's base rate rise should be on consumers via the mortgage rate, much as lenders will try to delay that and much as the Chancellor will applaud that delay. But the rebels may have scored another unlikely triumph. The symbolic VAT retreat could evoke that elusive feel-good factor enough to offset the rate rise altogether.

Audit report shows promise

☐ THERE is a new expectations gap in auditing. It is the gap between the radical McFarlane report and the important but more modest reforms the Auditing Practices Board has persuaded business and the profession to agree. This gap, at least, need not be permanent.

The collapses and nasty



shocks that made auditing an issue were creatures of recession. This was not the best time to persuade listed companies that they should pay for more searching audits or for accountancy firms to exert pressure. The APB found industry was not prepared to pay for a bloodhound audit, only a friendly watchdog. Nor was the Government anxious to help auditors limit legal liability, even in the unfair cases where deep pockets count more than blame. So they will not volunteer for more liability as fraud-hunters. Auditors will still give a better service. Since the McFarlane report, the APB has obliged them to take a more active role in vetting companies' claims of solvency. And the Cadbury rules ought to help curb the overweening boss, not least via audit committees of non-executives. The new report focuses on vetting anti-fraud controls, which should also help. But there is still a big expectations gap to be plugged here.

Prevailing ideology has blocked other reforms mooted in the 1992 report. The establishment Cadbury committee is still wedded to the unitary board. Companies fear two-tier boards; financial institutions want to stay outside the tent. The Government is wedded to self-regulation, although top auditors know that the ambiguous role of the accountancy institutes looks soft on bad auditing by big firms.

Working within these constraints, the APB has used more subtle devices: real people signing audit reports, audit committees vetting audit firms' lucrative non-audit contracts. They could prove effective: the best kind of reform. But the APB's agenda of institutional change remains, albeit temporarily shelved. A Labour government would, after all, be only too happy to take registration of auditors out of self-regulation, to create a watchdog for non-financial companies and to sponsor changes in boardroom roles.

Fair stands the wind for France

☐ THE 400,000 workers in Britain's defence industry should raise a collective cheer today. Five years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the Government has decided to hold a review of competition strategy in defence procurement. The outcome will give the industry an almanac by which to chart its course into the 21st century.

You certainly couldn't accuse ministers of being over-hasty. But the industry, in the shape of Britain's biggest defence contractor, British Aerospace, and its chief rival, GEC, forced a review. Through their competing bids for VSEL, the nuclear submarine builder, they opened a debate about the rival merits of vertical integration and competition. The cornerstone of the review will be the report into the future ownership of VSEL ordered yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade. In its report, the MMC must balance national security against the economies available from vertical integration of contractors on the one hand, and competition on the other.

Whether GEC will pursue its bid and continue lobbying in favour of vertical integration was unclear last night. The principle evidence will come from GEC, from VSEL, which wants a big backer, from BAe, which seeks to extend its skills as a prime contractor sideways into warship building, and the MoD.

Roger Freeman, the defence procurement minister, has already indicated that the MoD now favours a horizontal integration of the industry, Europe-wide, to obtain the best equipment, at the lowest cost.

The MMC will consider the merits of that project, and circumscribe the terms on which they should be sought.

Many of Britain's better arms makers are establishing European ties. But if Europe is to be the market for both sales and procurement, they will need continuing help from ministers: both in securing market access, and in levering open state-owned continental weapons companies to acquisition by British firms. The MMC report will be a beginning, not an end.

Tyre group maintains dividend

Shares in Avon Rubber fell 26p to 494p after the manufacturer of tyres and automotive components, announced an unchanged annual dividend of 16.5p, maintaining the final dividend at 11.5p. Earnings fell to 14.2p a share from 30p.

In the year to October 1, profits from continuing operations rose to £13.5 million from £11.6 million, but a £4 million loss on the disposal of the inflatables business reduced pre-tax profits to £8.5 million from £11 million.

Core businesses returned growth in profitability, with automotive components rising 79 per cent to £6.9 million and technical products 14.5 per cent to £5.78 million.

Tony Mitchard, chief executive, said: "The considerable progress in the second half of the year, the substantial opportunities for our North American operations and the recovery in the European market give us reason to view the future with confidence."

BTP ready to face challenge

BTP, the speciality chemical and industrial group, says a surge in demand for raw materials as the international economy emerges from recession has resulted in higher prices. However, John Ketteley, chairman, said the company was well placed to overcome this "challenging time".

In the half-year to September 30, BTP lifted taxable profits to £18 million from £13 million on turnover rising to £161.3 million from £130.7 million. Earnings were 9p a share, compared with 7.04p, and the interim dividend is increased to 3.75p from 3.45p, to be paid on February 13.

Stephen Hannam has been appointed chief executive, after the retirement of Frank Buckley, with Mr Ketteley becoming non-executive chairman.

Bass raises capital spending to £500m

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

BASS, Britain's biggest brewer, is countering the difficult conditions in the British beer market with a sharp rise in capital investment. The company said yesterday it would be spending a total of £500 million this year.

This compares with £290 million spent in the last financial year, to September 30, when the company raised pre-tax profits from £508 million to £552 million.

Ian Prosser, the chairman, said his company would be raising spending on its pubs and restaurants by £40 million to £140 million, while Bass's stated ambition of operating 3,000 Holiday Inn hotels by 1998 would involve a £50 million rise in spending on the chain to £150 million this year.

The final figures from Bass came in some £12 million ahead of market estimates, boosting the share price by 15p to 519p. The company is paying a 14.5p final dividend on February 13, making a 21.1p total, up 6.6 per cent on the previous year. The payment is made out of earnings per share that advanced 10.5 per cent to 40.1p.

Mr Prosser said that the company was looking for the economic recovery to continue in Britain and America, with some improvement in mainland Europe. He added that while the British beer market remained "sluggish", there had been some encouraging increases in customer spending in some areas, such as pub retailing and soft drinks.

The brewing side had been hit by the same squeeze on margins that has been hurting much of the beer industry, with continuing discounting necessary to win contracts with the big pub chains. "It's clear to us that there is pricing pressure — we're in a low-inflation environment so price increases are hard to come by," said Mr Prosser.

Operating profits from brewing fell by £16 million to £140 million, with turnover off just £6 million to £1,592 million. Margins in the beer division declined from 9.7 per cent to 8.8 per cent because of pressure on prices and in spite of improvements in efficiency.

Bass said that changes to the duty system had meant a one-off reduction of £12 million in profits from brewing, while restructuring costs increased from £6 million to £17 million.

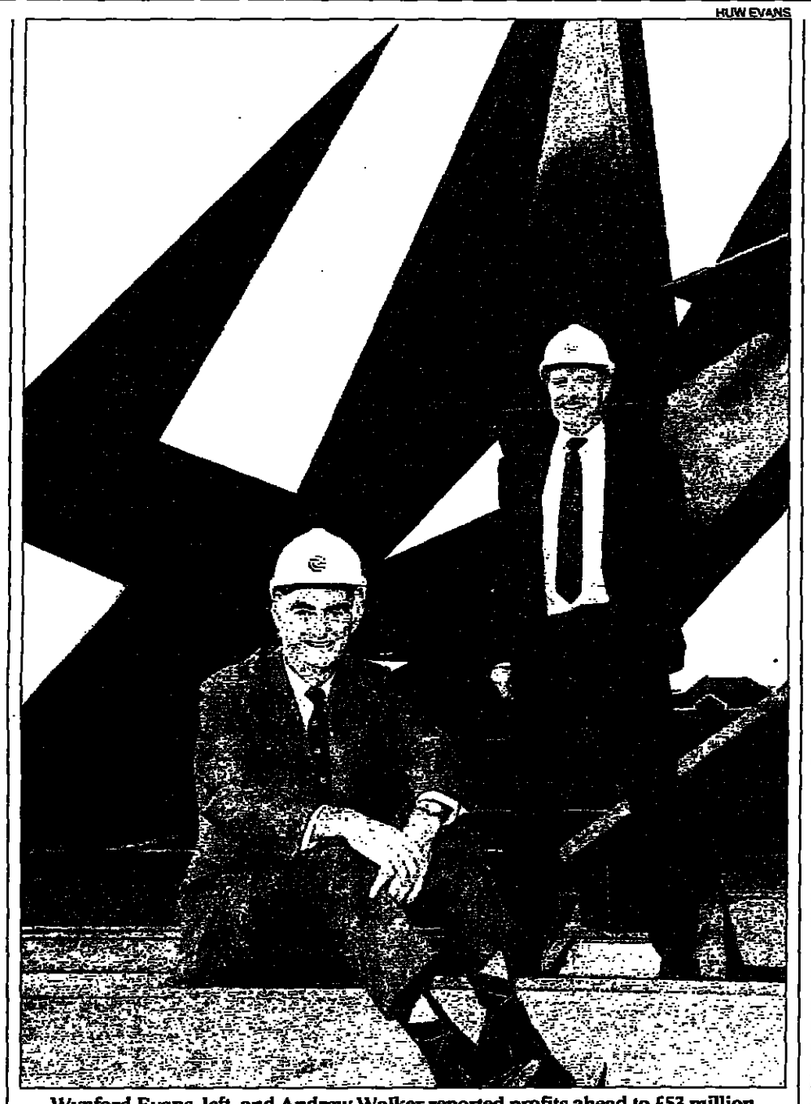
Bass Taverns, the retail estate, raised profits by £15 million to £220 million on virtually static turnover in spite of losing £11 million in profits because of pub disposals. Volumes through the pubs fell 7.2 per cent as a result of the reduction of 10 per cent in the size of the managed estate, but food takings in the catering outlets themselves rose by 10 per cent.

The 1,925-strong Holiday Inn Worldwide chain raised turnover by 4 per cent to £626 million and operating profits by 18 per cent to £151 million, helped by a 5 per cent rise in the number of rooms across the chain. But there was also some help from earlier renovation work which had limited the comparable performance of some hotels the previous year.

Operating profits from Bass Leisure, which includes the Coral betting shops, increased by 2.8 per cent to £74 million on turnover up 2 per cent. Coral itself managed 21 per cent operating profit growth to £17 million.

Tempus, page 28

HUW EVANS



Wynford Evans, left, and Andrew Walker reported profits ahead to £53 million

Bill warning by power firm

By Our Deputy City Editor

A REGIONAL electricity company is claiming that the closure of two power stations in its area will deprive its customers of much of the benefitfrom this summer's regulatory review, which forced wide ranging price cuts on the industry.

South Wales Electricity says that it faces an additional £7 million in charges for the use of the National Grid from next spring because of the proposed closure of Uskmouth and Aberthaw A by National Power. In addition, a turbine at a third station, Pembroke, is being shut. National Power has decided all are uneconomic.

Although South Wales, where Wynford Evans is chairman, has yet to assess the size of the cuts in customers' bills from April forced on it by Offer, the industry regulator, Andrew Walker, chief executive, said that these could even be wiped out by the higher grid charges.

The company reported pre-tax profits ahead by 21 per cent to £53.6 million on the back of a 1.5 per cent increase in the amount of electricity distributed.

The interim dividend is up by almost 47 per cent to 11.0p, but much of the rise is to adjust the balance between the half-way and full-year payment.

Nadir's assets taken to clear his $10m debt

From Colin Narbrough in Nicosia

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive former head of Polly Peck International, has struck a deal with the northern Cyprus government that will wipe out all his debts to the local authorities, estimated at $10 million.

At a Cabinet session late yesterday, called to consider a debt-eliminating plan put forward by Mr Nadir, ministers accepted a proposal from Rauf Denktash, the President, for the government to take over Sunzest, Mr Nadir's fruit packing and export business, in return for cancelling his unpaid taxes, bank debt and other amounts owed to the northern Cyprus authorities.

Mr Nadir personally participated in the Cabinet session for more than an hour. The deal, which is expected to be given final approval by the government today, came as the British administrators of the collapsed Polly Peck empire sought to strike a deal with the northern Cyprus government that would have given them control of two luxury hotels run by Mr Nadir until they were last month seized by the government.

The administrators, headed by Coopers & Lybrand, are legally liable for the $1.5 million of outstanding tax payments owed by the hotel company. The northern Cypriot authorities are also owed almost $100,000 in unpaid ground rent. The deal that the administrators are seeking would secure them the hotel assets, with which to pay bad debt and raise more funds for Polly Peck creditors.

Sunzest is the biggest remaining business that Mr Nadir has in northern Cyprus, employing about 800 people. The ban declared by the European Union this year on food from northern Cyprus has threatened the viability of the company, whose products were directed at the export market.

The ban came after the Greek Cypriot government complained that northern Cyprus, whose administration is recognised only by Turkey, had not provided necessary certificates for exports and food safety.

Earlier, Mr Nadir and his workers mounted an effective campaign against the nothern Cypriot authorities. Several Nadir employees have been staging a hunger strike outside his headquarters in Nicosia, in protest at the government's actions. Workers from Mr Nadir's hotels demonstrated outside the prime minister's office on Monday.

RM turns down bid by Misys

By Our City Staff

RM, the educational computer group that is due to announce pricing details of a stock market float tomorrow, disclosed last night that it had received a bid from Misys, a computer services group.

RM, formerly known as Research Machines, said, however, it had rejected the offer and the flotation would go ahead. RM said the offer, of 235p a share, was wholly inadequate and that preconditions, which include the directors' recommendation would not be satisfied.

RM published its pathfinder prospectus on November 24. The group said last night it believes the interests of shareholders, customers and employees are best served by independently promoting the company's strategy of organic growth within the education market.

But RM directors say if any offer is made, shareholders will be told.



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STOCK MARKET  PHILIP PANGALOS

Power shares dimmed by rise in interest rates

UTILITY stocks took a battering as shocked City dealers tried to make sense of the political uncertainties that follow in the wake of the Government's defeat in Tuesday's Commons vote and the surprise half-point rise in UK interest rates.

Among electricity distribution companies hardest hit, **East Midland** dimmed 23p to 715p, **Eastern** 20p to 767p, **Norweb** 16p to 764p, **Southern** 20p to 766p, **South West** 10p to 764p and **Yorkshire** 11p to 704p. The few exceptions that bucked the trend included **London**, up 3p to 686p, **Northern**, 4p firmer at 863p on bid rumours, and **South Wales**, 9p higher at 780p.

The power generators, in which the Government plans to sell hefty stakes early next year, also took a tumble. **PowerGen** dropped 25½p to 512½p and **National Power** dipped 17½p to 484½p.

Among water stocks, **Anglian** fell 14p to 475p, **North West** 23p to 500p, **Northumbrian** 19p to 664p, **Severn Trent** 23p to 510p, **South West** 13p to 464p, **Southern** 18p to 538p, Thames 19p to 453p and Welsh 19p to 598p.

Meanwhile, shares opened lower after the Government's defeat on Tuesday night. However, an initial 13-point fall in the FT-SE 100 index was soon reversed into a one-time advance of 18.6 points after the Bank of England surprised the market by raising the base rate by 50 basis points, the second rise in interest rates this year, to 6.25 per cent. A rate rise had been widely anticipated, but the timing of the latest increase took many in the financial markets by surprise.

Both equities and gilts seesawed, but a satisfactory outcome to the latest gilt auction helped to steady dealers' nerves on another volatile day. There was nervousness before today's proposals by the Chancellor to make up the shortfall in Government income caused by the scrapping of the second phase of the VAT increase on domestic fuel.

A negative start to trading on Wall Street was blamed on inflationary worries and sharply lower US bonds after selling inspired by worries that Orange County's derivatives losses might be the tip of the iceberg. US investors were also nervous after Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, told the Joint Economic Committee that there was very little slowdown in the US economy. The early falls in New York and a retreat by the December FT-SE futures dragged the cash market lower in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index ended down 3.6 at 3,012.5. Volume reached 543 million shares.

Meanwhile, another surprise was in store for the market after Michael Heseltine, Trade and Industry Secretary, referred both bids for **VSEL** to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Sentiment was hit as the market had generally expected both offers to be cleared.

Shares in VSEL, the warship and Trident submarine maker, crashed 197p to £13.38 in response to the referral, though most felt the slide was overdone, while **British Aerospace** eased 4p to 433p and **GEC** firmed 2½p to 275½p. The MMC must report on both sides by March 15.

Concern about the impact of higher domestic interest rates on consumer confidence and spending in the crucial run-up to Christmas unsettled some in an already jittery retail sector. Among stores groups, **Kingfisher** fell 7p to 434p, **Marks and Spencer** 5½p to 383½p, **Allders** 5p to 201p, **Boots** 4p to 481p and **Tie Rack** 2p to 127p. Among food retailers, **Argyll** dipped 4½p to 247½p, **Sainsbury** 1p to 401p and **Tesco** 3½p to 238p.

Portals Group continued its advance in the wake of renewed bid hopes. The shares added 45p to 816p — a two-day gain of 111p. **De La Rue**, which is expected by many in the market to make an agreed bid eventually of up to £10 a share for the maker of banknotes and specialist paper, recovered 4p to 967p.

BT advanced 6p to 376p, on volume of 12.8 million shares, relieved after publication of the consultation document from Oftel made clear that the telecommunications industry regulator will keep its current price formula of RPI minus 7.5 per cent in place until it expires in 1997. **Cable & Wireless**, owner of Mercury, firmed 2½p to 371p.

Taylor Woodrow rose 5p to 124p, on heavy volume of 58.1 million shares, after saying it plans to carry out a rolling share buyback programme in a move aimed at increasing the efficiency of its capital structure and boosting earnings per share.

Elsewhere, **Pilkington** firmed 1p to 162p as NatWest Securities told clients that the group offers better value after a recent slide, changing its recommendation from reduce to hold. NatWest has also changed its tone on **Rugby**, 1p firmer to 118p, from hold to add, while **BPB**, up 4p to 292p, is also moved to add.

Freeport Leisure climbed 4p to 81p after the property group issued a buoyant trading statement. But **Airsprung** tumbled 21p to 221p as a poor performance from the furniture group's upholstery division took a toll on overall profits.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts opened lower after Tuesday's Commons vote, but a rise in base rates 20 minutes before bids closed for the Government's latest auction of £2 billion of Treasury stock 8½ per cent 2005 caught traders by surprise. At the time, a lot of dealers were short of stock, having positioned themselves in order to bid for stock in the auction, which prompted a sharp rise in the futures.

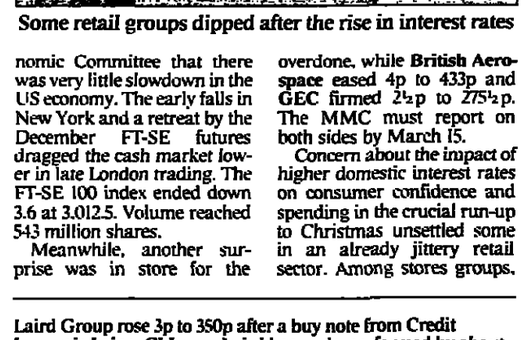
The auction was eventually oversubscribed by a "satisfactory" 1.34 times, helping the March series of the long gilt future to end 7 ticks higher at £101²²/₃₂, on active volume of 98,000 contracts traded. Among cash stocks, gains stretched to £⅜ at the longer end, though index-linked issues, affected by the base rate rise, saw losses of up to £¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average fell 12.44 points to stand at 3,733.51 at midday.



Some retail groups dipped after the rise in interest rates

Laird Group rose 3p to 350p after a buy note from Credit Lyonnais Laing. CLL says Laird has underperformed by about 10 per cent in the past three months and is undervalued against the engineering sector, yet has a strong balance sheet and good European exposure. CLL sees £4 as fair value.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	3733.51	(-12.44)
S&P Composite	451.85	(-1.26)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	19174.23	(-166.24)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	8268.50	(-64.15)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	410.09	(-1.09)
Sydney:		
AO	1869.2	(-22.0)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	2055.60	(+8.72)
Singapore:		
Straits	2180.38	(-6.69)
Brussels:		
General	7311.43	(+1.15)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1969.84	(+0.89)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	644.10	(-1.60)
London:		
FT 30	2319.7	(+1.4)
FT 100	3012.5	(-3.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3425.3	(-4.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1335.98	(-0.80)
FT A All-Share	1495.82	(-1.90)
FT Non Financials	1613.99	(-2.47)
FT Gold Mines	220.1	(+2.7)
FT Fixed Interest	109.37	(-0.15)
FT Govt Secs	91.57	(+0.07)
Bargains	18295	
SEAQ Volume	543.0m	
USM (Datastrm)	152.50	(-0.16)
US$	1.5642	(+0.0012)
German Mark	2.4577	(+0.0002)
Exchange Index	80.3	(same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.2844	
£:SDR	1.0740	
RPI	145.2 Oct (2.4%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ashbourne (150)	151	...
Asset Mngmnt Inv (100)	93	...
Churchill China (280)	285	...
Euclidian (100)	102	...
Eurovein (141)	143	...
Fidelity Spec V Uts	478	-1
Fnsbry Sml Cos C (100)	99	...
First Russ Fts ($10)	625	...
Fleming Nat Res (100)	91	...
For & Col Emrg C (100)	105	...
H Gov 1000 Index (100)	102	...
Hydro Intl (80)	83	...
INVESCO Korea C	97	...
JJB Sports (215)	231	...
Kiln Capital (100)	100	...
Malhsn Lids Inv (100)	83	+1
Murray Emrg Ec (100)	90	...
Murray Emrg Ec Wts	39	...
SeaPerfect (120)	134	...
TLG (115)	132	...
Tele-Cine Cell (170)	165	...
Telewest Comm (182)	184	+1½
Wellington Under (100)	102	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Apollo Metals n/p (77)	2	...
Laird Group n/p (295)	52	+1
OMJ n/p (37)	2	...
Seton Health n/p (285)	30	-1
Usborne n/p (25)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Bass	519p (+15p)
Courtaulds	432p (+7p)
Blick	430p (+12p)
Charter	789p (+9p)

FALLS:

Berkeley Gp	341p (-12p)
Hill & Smith	134p (-6p)
Airsprung	221p (-21p)
Lamont	345p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Bass player

BASS finds itself in a bit of a fix, and the state of upheaval in the British beer and pub market is not helping it make the sort of long-term strategic decisions required. The company was one of two which started the current discounting war, and about the best face Bass could put on the situation at the front yesterday was that the rate of increase in the size of discounts being offered to pub owners is slowing.

Bass, despite the addition of Grolsch to its portfolio, still feels the lack of an upmarket brand like Boddington's, which has allowed Whitbread to avoid the worst effects of the squeeze at the bottom end of the market. Its retail estate also lacks a big branded restaurant chain, and ventures such as the awful-sounding and family-oriented Deep Sea Den are not going to help much.

The figures yesterday were sufficiently better than the market estimates to push the price ahead, even if the statement gave little idea of the way forward.

The company's response has been to increase sharply the level of capital investment this year, the bulk going on the retail estate and on Holiday Inn Worldwide. Retail will absorb £140 million, most of that on new pubs built to take advantage of the fact that earlier disposals have left Bass 500 tied outlets below the MMC's imposed limit. But the building-out of retail brands is difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

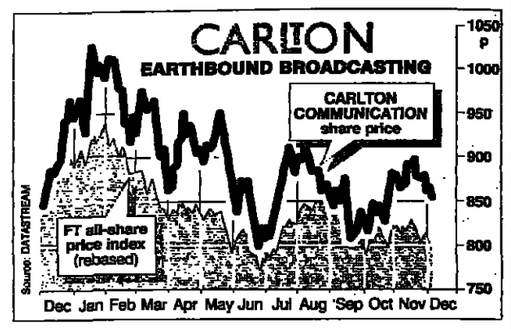
The shares, after yesterday's upward flip, are selling on 12 times this year's earnings, assuming pre-tax profits in the £580 million region, a low rating which probably reflects the market's lack of warmth towards Bass.

Carlton

IF the chairman of Carlton Communications has his way, the ITV network will soon turn into the Mike, Gerry and Clive show. A carve-up of the network between Carlton, Granada and Meridian, headed by Michael Green, Gerry Robinson and Lord (Clive) Hollick, might have dubious merits for couch-potato viewers in far-flung ITV regions, but Carlton is already demonstrating that hard-nosed financial management of TV franchises can make oodles of money.

Carlton has managed to remove £10 million of overhead from removing duplicate cost-centres in the London and Midlands TV companies and next year should achieve more. In the short term, Carlton should grow strongly, with market forecasts of £245 million profits for the current year, but the outlook for longer term growth is less certain and canny investors cannot fail to note the self-interest in yesterday's pleas for more deregulation.

Central's massive boost to the Carlton full-year performance owes a good deal to timing and the allocation of programme costs. In a static market, Carlton needs to find new profit earners, hence the company's newfound enthusiasm for film libraries. If there is gold in the software, Carlton needs a ready market for it, and despite its disparagement of cable and satellite, an investment in those media cannot be far off.



Bowater

WHEN it announced the disposal of its Australian tissue business last month, Bowater promised to recycle the funds into in-fill acquisitions, and the purchase of SOFAB gives it a flying start. SOFAB is exactly the sort of high growth, high margin niche business that David Lyon, Bowater's chief executive, likes to manage.

The FFr560 million price, more than three times turnover and five times assets, looks dear but SOFAB has expanded its sales at a compound rate of more than 20 per cent in the last four years, and generates an operating margin of more than 25 per cent. There is a strong trend in the cosmetics industry towards smaller perfume bottles, and SOFAB is the leading manufacturer of pumps and atomisers for them.

The perfume industry has such high operating margins itself that it is less sensitive to input costs than most manufacturing sectors. That allows companies like SOFAB to pass on any rise in their raw material costs far more easily than Bowater's bulk packaging businesses. By expanding into areas such as cosmetics and pharmaceutical packaging, Bowater is enriching its business mix and defending itself from the classic cyclicality of the packaging industry. This in turn can only improve the stability of the shares price.

The acquisition will add 8 percentage points to gearing, but if the Australian tissue disposal is completed the group will still only have gearing of 33 per cent by the year-end. That leaves Mr Lyon plenty more scope to hunt for similar deals.

Countryside

HOME-buyers are a curious lot. When money is dear and prices are shooting up, they will happily mortgage to the hilt to buy a property but today, when housebuilders proclaim — with some justification — that a home is now more affordable than it has been for 20 years, the buyers are sitting on their hands.

In theory, the base rate rise should do little to change that equation but for most people a house is too big a purchase not to be affected by political storms in Westminster teacups. Housebuilders like Countryside Properties could see their traditional January and February sales boost dampened by election fever and politically-led market turbulence.

Thankfully for Countryside the company is solid enough to withstand another year of weakish demand and flattish prices. The company has a long land bank which should provide it with enough ammunition to keep profits rolling in and protect it from overheated land prices in London and the South East.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	988-987	Mar	1009-998
Mar	952-950	May	1008 BID
May	954-952	Jul	1020-1010
Jul	960-958	Sep	1030-1020
Sep	969-968		
Dec	985-983	Volume 9714	

KOBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2945-2941	Sep	2835-2830
Mar	2900-2891	Nov	2825-2810
May	2875-2865	Jan	2820-2800
Jul	2860-2850	Volume 4568	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	358.0-55.0
Spot: n/a		Dec	354.4-49.5
Mar	405.5-04.5	Mar	354 1-48.0
May	397.5-96.5	May	353 1-46.0
Aug	387.5-85.5	Volume 628	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 6

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	79.22	119.11	121.28
(+/-)	+0.80	+10.58	+3.72
England/Wales	79.42	119.58	119.62
(+/-)	+0.59	+10.64	+4.15
(%)	+30.0	+9.0	+9.0
Scotland	76.58	116.93	125.94
(+/-)	+2.25	+9.93	+1.32
(%)	-3.0	-18.0	+31.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	15.90	-0.15
Brent IS day (Jan)	16.05	-0.15
Brent IS day (Feb)	16.00	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	16.80	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	16.90	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B. 152 (+1)	Cr. 154 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	139 (-2)	141 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	142 (-1)	144 (-2)
Non EEC 1H Feb	145 (-1)	148 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	93 (n/c)	95 (n/c)
Naphtha	174 (-2)	176 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	139.25-39.50	Mar	147.00-47.25
Jan	142.50-42.75	Apr	147.00-47.25
Feb	144.75-45.25	Vol: 23478	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	16.01-16.04	Apr	15.92 SLR
Feb	15.94-15.98	May	15.92 SLR
Mar	15.92 SLR	Vol: 41442	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	106.15	Jan	102.60
Mar	107.20	Mar	104.60
May	108.95	May	106.45
Jul	110.30	Sep	94.75
Sep	95.40	Nov	96.25
Volume: 137		Volume: 202	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	unq
Apr	271.0	272.5
May	unq	290.0
Volume: 102		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan — 93.25-93.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 94	2025	2025	2025
Jan 95	2003	1990	2002
Feb 95	1959	1940	1955
Apr 95	1865	1850	1860
Vol: 421 lots	Open Interest: 2978		
	Index 1989 = 12		

(Official) (Volume prev day) — **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2907.0-2909.0	2873.0-2875.0	150432S
Lead ($/tonne)	623.00-623.50	640.00-640.50	142650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1110.0-1110.5	1139.5-1139.0	536825
Tin ($/tonne)	5970.0-5975.0	6060.0-6065.0	25865
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1851.0-1851.5	1978.0-1879.0	1342125
Nickel ($/tonne)	8850.0-8860.0	9965.0-8990.0	131412

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 94	3010.0	3047.0	3002.0	3006.0	18922
Previous open interest: 65483	Mar 95	3023.5	3057.5	3019.0	3020.5	6645
FT-SE 250	Dec 94	3420.0	3420.0	3420.0	3420.0	100
Previous open interest: 5335	Mar 95	3454.5	3454.5	3454.5	3454.0	100
Three Month Sterling	Dec 94	93.40	93.48	93.37	93.46	47245
Previous open interest: 502597	Mar 95	92.41	92.64	92.40	92.56	71222
	Jun 95	91.82	92.05	91.62	91.95	24003
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 94				93.63	0
Previous open interest: 4650	Mar 95				92.78	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 94	94.63	94.65	94.61	94.64	11730
Previous open interest: 730938	Mar 95	94.49	94.52	94.47	94.49	31809
Long Gilt	Dec 94	101-24	103-16	101-21	102-12	6646
Previous open interest: 139927	Mar 95	101-02	101-27	100-30	101-22	98303
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.32	108.35	108.18	108.18	1629
	Jun 95				107.45	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 94	91.26	91.27	90.95	90.97	9269
Previous open interest: 200757	Mar 95	90.65	90.68	90.07	90.21	112984
Three month ECU	Dec 94	93.83	93.88	93.82	93.83	671
Previous open interest: 25193	Mar 95	93.55	93.58	93.50	93.53	1543
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 94	95.74	95.77	95.74	95.76	1247
Previous open interest: 43602	Mar 95	95.44	95.46	95.42	95.46	4220
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	100.25	100.35	100.11	100.19	13981
Previous open interest: 45939	Jun 95	99.50	99.50	99.50	99.48	20

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 6%
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5 Low 7 Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy. 2 mth 5⅝ : 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 5⅛ : 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6-5⅛	6⅛-5⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7-6⅞	7⅛-7⅛
Overnight: open 4⅛, close 7⅛					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	6.06	n/a	6.26	6.71	7.40
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Nov 30, 1994 Agreed rates Dec 26, 1994 to Jan 24, 1994 Scheme III: 7.39%. Reference rate Nov 1, 1994 to Nov 30, 1994 Scheme IV & V: 6.107%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-5	6⅛-5⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	5⅛-4⅛
Deutschemark:	5⅛-4⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅛
French Franc	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅛
Swiss Franc	4-3⅛	4⅛-3⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-3⅛
Yen	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-1⅛

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $376.80-377.20 Close: $376.00-376.50 High: $378.00-378.50
Low: $375.20-375.70 AM: $377.00 PM: $377.00

Krugerrand: $376.00-378.00 (£240.00-242.00)

Platinum: $403.50 (£257.35) **Silver:** $4.67 (£2.985) **Palladium:** $153.30 (£97.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Dec 7

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7429-2.7544	2.7510-2.7544	½-¼pr	½-¼pr
Brussels	50.36-50.62	50.51-50.62	5pr-par	21-11pr
Copenhagen	9.5910-9.6350	9.6200-9.6350	¼pr-par	1¼-¼pr
Dublin	1.0172-1.0238	1.0210-1.0238	6-3pr	11-6pr
Frankfurt	2.4492-2.4587	2.4554-2.4587	¼pr-par	¾-¼pr
Lisbon	250.24-251.81	251.17-251.81	75-95dis	205-260dis
Madrid	208.41-206.12	208.80-206.12	28-35dis	70-82dis
Milan	2532.00-2539.00	2534.40-2537.90	4-6dis	13-16dis
Montreal	2.1608-2.1608	2.1570-2.1601	0.14-0.02pr	0.24-0.11pr
New York	1.5640-1.5674	1.5640-1.5650	par-0.03dis	0.04-0.06pr
Oslo	10.6580-10.7250	10.7100-10.7250	¼-½ds	1¼-¼pr
Paris	8.4140-8.4510	8.4370-8.4510	¼-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Stockholm	11.7210-11.7830	11.7220-11.7460	1¼-2¼ds	3¼-5¼ds
Tokyo	155.94-156.74	156.44-156.71	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Vienna	17.23-17.31	17.23-17.27	2¼-1¼pr	7¼-5pr
Zurich	2.0691-2.0784	2.0754-2.0784	¼-¼pr	1¼-1pr

Source: Extel — *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2990-1.2998
Austria	11.01-11.02
Belgium (Com)	32.22-32.23
Canada	1.3789-1.3794
Denmark	6.1345-6.1375
France	5.3810-5.3840
Germany	1.5670-1.5675
Hong Kong	7.7345-7.7355
Ireland	1.5328-1.5343
Italy	1618.95-1619.45
Japan	99 75-99.85
Malaysia	2.5631-2.5636
Netherlands	1.7550-1.7555
Norway	6.8305-6.8335
Portugal	160.20-160.30
Singapore	1.4645-1.4650
Spain	131.25-131.35
Sweden	7.4868-7.4943
Switzerland	1.3232-1.3242

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5634-1.5661
Australia dollar	2.0335-2.0361
Bahrain dinar	0.583-0.595
Brazil real	1.3222-1.3262
Cyprus pound	0.739-0.749
Finland markka	7.5445-7.6605
Greece drachma	374.00-381.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.1089-12.1173
India rupee	48.54-49.50
Kuwait dinar KD	0.464-0.474
Malaysia ringgit	4.0100-4.0133
Mexico peso	5.28-5.38
New Zealand dollar	2.4634-2.4669
Pakistan rupee	47.53 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.802-5.928
Singapore dollar	2.2930-2.2950
S Africa rand (fin)	6.5037-6.5549
S Africa rand (com)	5.5530-5.5613
U A E dirham	5.6755-5.7955

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,300	Legal & Gn	836
ASDA Gp	4,200	Lloyds Bk	1,700
Abbey Nat	1,500	MEPC	801
Alld Dom	1,100	Marks Spr	4,800
Argyll Gp	2,700	NatWst Bk	3,700
Arlo Wiggn	699	Nat Power	5,000
AB Foods	684	Nth Wst W	2,000
BAA	1,700	P & O	854
BAT Inds	1,900	Pearson	821
BOC	167	PowerGen	5,400
BP	3,900	Prudential	2,100
BTR	6,700	RMC	217
BT	12,000	RTZ	1,100
Bk of Scot	489	Rank Org	3,400
Barclays	3,000	Reckitt Col	1,000
Bass	3,200	Redland	562
Blue Circle	326	Reed Intl	1,600
Boots	1,400	Rentokil	731
Bowater	359	Reuters	1,900
Brit Aero	3,000	Rolls Royce	6,100
Brit Airways	910	Rtr Ins	392
Brit Gas	7,400	Ryl Bk Scot	2,200
Brit Steel	3,600	Sainsbury	529
Burrmah Cstl	116	Schroders	301
Cable Wire	3,000	Scot & New	567
Cadbury	2,300	Scot Power	1,700
Caradon	632	Sears	8,700
Carlton Cms	3,000	Sern Trent	3,500
Cm Union	1,600	Shell Trans	2,700
Courtaulds	3,800	Slebe	4,100
De La Rue	773	Smkl Bch	11,000
Eastern Elec	1,800	Smith Nph	1,600
Enterpr Oil	356	Sthern Elec	3,200
Forte	549	Sid Chard	1,000
GKN	323	Sun Alliance	1,100
GRE	1,600	TI Grp	1,100
GUS	801	TSB	6,900
Gen Acc	583	Tesco	2,700
Gen Elec	3,300	Thames W	7,100
Glaxo	5,100	Thrn EMI	498
Granada	1,900	Tomkins	9,100
Grand Met	5,000	Unilever	1,300
Guinness	2,600	Utd Biscs	1,000
HSBC	3,200	Vodafone	6,100
Hanson	3,200	Warburg (SG)	580
ICI	1,300	Wellcome	2,400
Inchcape	1,100	Whitbread	716
Kingfisher	2,500	Wilm- Hld	694
Ladbroke	2,000	Wolseley	627
Land Secs	332	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 7 midday	Dec 6 close
AMP Inc	71	71
AMR Corp	51½	50¼
AT & T	48	48⅛
Abbott Labs	32¾	32⅝
Advanced Micro	24⅜	24⅝
Aetna Life	45¼	44⅜
Ahmanson (HF)	16	16¼
Air Prod & Chem	45	45⅛
Albertson's	28⅜	28⅜
Alcan Aluminm	25	25⅛
Alco Standard	55¼	56¼
Allied Signal	33	33
Alum Co of Am	82¾	82½
Amax Gold Inc	6	5⅞
Amerada Hess	44¾	44⅝
Amer Brands	34⅝	34¼
Amer El Power	33⅜	33
Amer Express	29¾	29⅝
Amer Genl Corp	27⅞	27⅝
Amer Home Pr	66⅛	66⅛
Amer Intl	95⅛	9⅝
Amer Stores	25⅝	26⅛
Ameritech	39⅜	39⅜
Amoco	69⅞	69⅞
Anheuser-Busch	50⅜	50⅛
Apple Computer	37⅜	37⅜
Archer Daniels	19⅜	19⅜
Armco	5⅞	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	38⅜	38⅜
Asarco	26⅜	26⅛
Ashland Oil	33⅛	32⅞
Atl Richfield	101¼	102⅝
Auto Data Pro	55⅛	55⅛
Avery Dennison	33⅛	33⅛
Avon Products	91	91
Baker Hughes	17⅞	18
Baltim Gas & El	22	22
Banc One	26⅛	26⅛
BankAmerica	40⅜	40⅜
Bank of NY	27⅝	27⅝
Bankers Tr NY	58⅜	59⅜
Barnett Banks	38⅜	39
Bausch & Lomb	33⅛	33⅛
Baxter Intl	25⅜	25⅛
Bevin Dickinsn	48⅛	49⅜
Bell Atlantic	50⅜	50⅜
Bellsouth	52⅜	52
Black & Decker	23⅞	24
Block (H&R)	34¼	34⅛
Boeing	47⅜	47⅜
Boise Cascade	23⅜	23⅛
Borden Inc	13⅝	13⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	58⅜	58
Browning Ferris	26⅜	27⅛
Brunswick	17⅞	18
Burlington Nrthn	50	50⅜
CBS	54¼	54⅛
CNA Financial	63	63
CPC Intl	51½	52⅛
CSX	68⅛	69⅜
Campbell Soup	42⅝	43⅛
Can Pacific	14¼	14⅛
Cpd Cities ABC	81	81⅛
Carolina Pwr	26⅝	27⅛
Caterpillar	52⅜	52⅛
Central & SW	22⅝	22⅝
Champion Intl	34¼	34¼
Chase Manhat	35⅝	35⅞
Chemical Bk	38	38⅛
Chevron Corp	42⅞	43⅛
Chrysler	49⅜	49⅜
Chubb Corp	72⅛	72⅛
Cigna Corp	64½	64⅜
Citicorp	41¼	41⅛
Clorox	58⅜	58½
Coastal Corp	26⅛	26⅜
Coca Cola	51	51⅛
Colgate-Palmolive	65⅜	66
Columbia Gas	23	23⅛
Compaq Comp	41⅛	41⅛
Comp Ass Int	46⅜	46⅜
Conagra	31⅜	31⅜
Conrail	76⅜	76½
Cons Nat Gas	34⅜	34⅜
Cons Rail	91	92⅛
Cooper Inds	33⅛	33⅞
Corning Inc	30	30⅛
Crown Cork	36½	36⅜
Dana Corp	22	22⅛
Dayton Hudson	77⅜	78⅛
Deere	64⅜	64⅝
Delta Air Lines	48⅜	48⅜
Deluxe		

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hecklers join bankers' tour

MERCHANT bankers who traditionally tour universities to tempt graduates into City life, and who invariably send them to sleep with their presentations, have put some zip into this year's recruitment visits. The magnificent seven — Hill Samuel, Kleinwort Benson, Lazards, Morgan Grenfell, Rothschilds, Samuel Montague and Schroders — took up, some rather reluctantly, a suggestion by John Moore, of the advertising agency The Harwood Company, to enliven their talks with actor "plants". So a laid-back, upper-class twit named "Henry", a patronising American named "Nancy", and an aggressive "Kevin" were hired to pop up from the unsuspecting audience to "challenge" the bankers. Henry heckled, Kevin was aggressive, and Nancy got to pat Morgan Grenfell's personnel director, Stephen Brooks, on the head. The exercise has given graduates a whole new insight into City life, and inquiries have been flooding in. I suggest that the idea be applied to AGMs.

Fall guy

RODNEY Maryan Green, specialist bank salesman with James Capel, and whom colleagues describe as a lively and entertaining character, is jumping off the City merry-go-round at the age of 55, after 40 years in the Square Mile. With his National Service experience to draw on, he still entertains office colleagues every now and then with a parachute roll off his desk, or, indeed, off the nearest office shelf. "I don't bruise easily," he says. Not least for his international contacts, but also for his expertise, James Capel has asked him to be their roving ambassador.



"...And double on Sundays"

Clarke off menu

KENNETH Clarke nearly came face to face with one of the instruments of his defeat in Tuesday's VAT vote. The Chancellor was due to be guest speaker at a reception held by the Manufacturing and Construction Industries Alliance, whose chairman is the dewhipped Tory Nicholas Winterton, prominent in the vote against our Ken. In the end, Anthony Nelson, Treasury Economic Secretary, stood in for his boss.

Brought to book

WHILE in Nicosia on the look-out for the fugitive Asil Nadir, former head of Polly Peck, my correspondent was flicking through a book on the Turkish language last night. He tells me that Asil translates as "noble" and Nadir as "rarity". Not a bad handle for somebody who started an empire in the humble rag trade and who is said to have spent his childhood running around Cyrpus barefoot.

Dealers' delight

THE dealing room of Credit Lyonnais UK yesterday raised £3,250 for the Portsmouth Down's Syndrome Trust in an auction of sporting items that drew bids from throughout Europe. Top bid was £420 for a signed Spurs football.

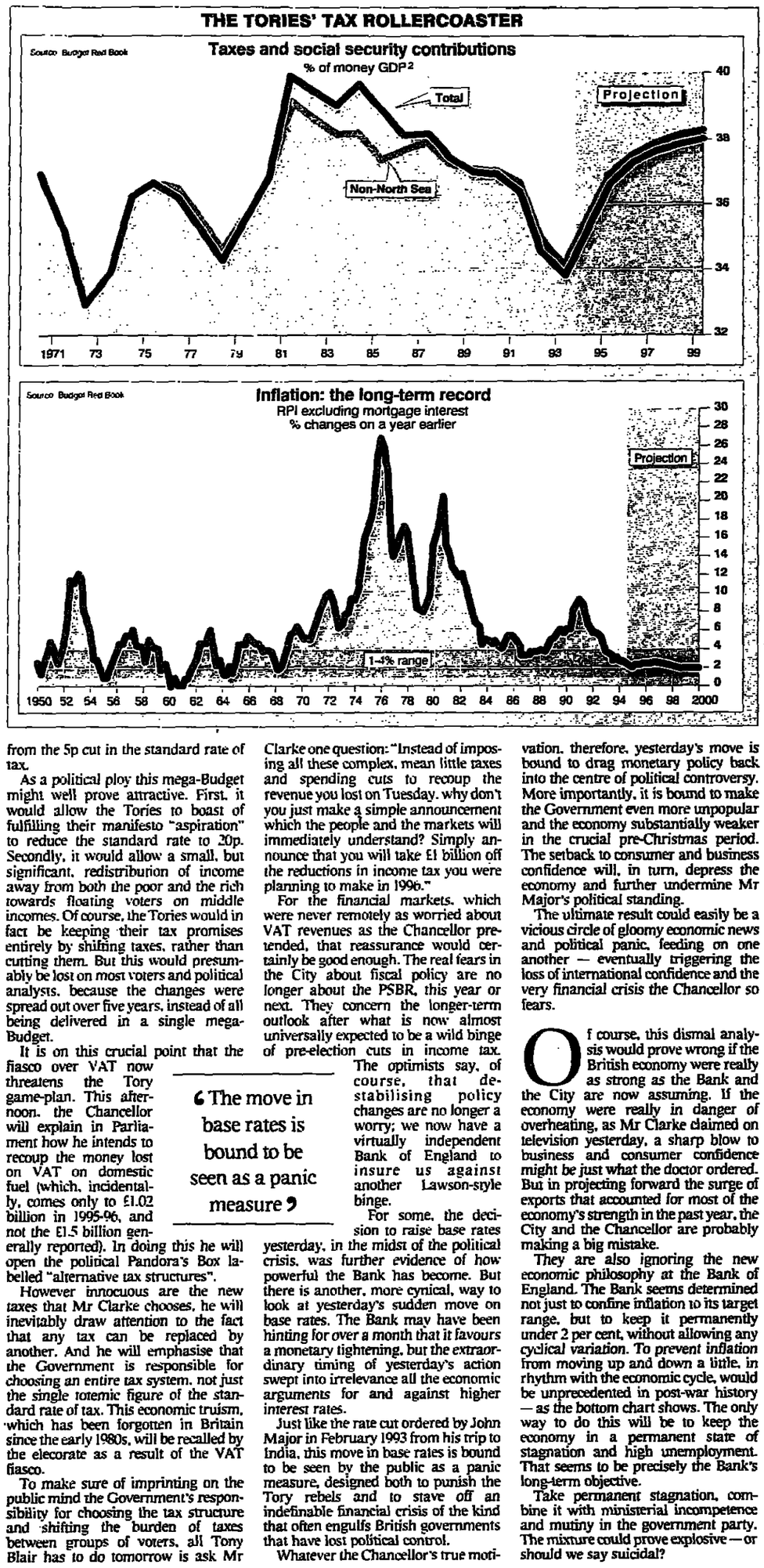
COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY



Interest rise underscores Tories' lemming tendency

The VAT fiasco will create political fallout for the Government far beyond its limited economic effects



We now know what Kenneth Clarke meant by a suicide pact. First, the Prime Minister wipes out the Government's majority. Then the Budget gives ex-Tories a perfect issue to unite on. Then the Chancellor provokes more rebels by threatening a ludicrously disproportionate punishment for anyone who does not support him — ie the whole country — in the form of a two-point increase in base rates. (Uncanny memories here of Norman Lamont's threat to "punish" the markets with a two-point rate rise just before White Wednesday). Finally, the country is duly punished for the Government's incompetence with a rate increase, albeit only a half-hearted one of half a point.

That may sound like a good week's work for a Government bent on collective suicide. But this straightforward outline of the Cabinet's mad caper does not begin to do justice to the subtlety of Mr Clarke's "suicide pact".

If John Major survives as Prime Minister — a bigger "if" than usual, but nevertheless a fair bet — the immediate causes and consequences of the VAT rebellion will soon be forgotten. But the suicide pact will leave behind two permanent economic after-effects. First, the aftermath of this week's events will gradually erode the credibility of the Government's financial policies. Secondly, the vote on VAT itself will draw attention to the cynical strategy on taxes which the Tories themselves see as their only plausible re-election hope.

To start with the second point, let me return to the argument made here last week, just after the Budget. Everyone knows that the Government's plans for re-election call for big cuts in taxes in the 1995 and 1996 Budgets. At first sight these huge tax-cuts seem might absurd, coming so soon after all the new imposts in the first three years of the present parliament — either the tax increases were unnecessary or the prospective tax cuts will be irresponsible. Yet, leaving aside for the moment the question of whether next year's tax cuts will be imprudent, this rollercoaster ride for Britain's taxpayers makes perfectly good sense — at least from a political point of view.

The way to see the Government's logic is to imagine all of the Budgets in this parliament telescoped into one single mega-Budget, covering five years. By 1997 the net result of all the ups and downs in taxes is likely to be a cut of 5p in the standard rate of tax accompanied by a modest *increase* in the Government's overall tax take.

The net macroeconomic impact of the five-year mega-Budget would be limited, but the structure of the tax system would be dramatically changed. Rather less would be raised through income tax, but considerably more would come from indirect taxes on fuel, petrol and tobacco, as well as the less visible form of income tax called National Insurance. In addition, the mega-Budget would change the structure of the income tax system itself, placing much more of the burden on married people, homeowners and the very poor and very rich, both of whom benefit disproportionately from personal allowances.

In exchange, the mega-Budget would lighten the load on a broad swath of taxpayers on middle incomes who would derive the maximum benefit from the 5p cut in the standard rate of tax.

As a political ploy this mega-Budget might well prove attractive. First, it would allow the Tories to boast of fulfilling their manifesto "aspiration" to reduce the standard rate to 20p. Secondly, it would allow a small, but significant, redistribution of income away from both the poor and the rich towards floating voters on middle incomes. Of course, the Tories would in fact be keeping their tax promises entirely by shifting taxes, rather than cutting them. But this would presumably be lost on most voters and political analysts, because the changes were spread out over five years, instead of all being delivered in a single mega-Budget.

It is on this crucial point that the fiasco over VAT now threatens the Tory game-plan. This afternoon, the Chancellor will explain in Parliament how he intends to recoup the money lost on VAT on domestic fuel (which, incidentally, comes only to £1.02 billion in 1995-96, and not the £1.5 billion generally reported). In doing this he will open the political Pandora's Box labelled "alternative tax structures".

> "The move in base rates is bound to be seen as a panic measure"

However innocuous are the new taxes that Mr Clarke chooses, he will inevitably draw attention to the fact that any tax can be replaced by another. And he will emphasise that the Government is responsible for choosing an entire tax system, not just the single totemic figure of the standard rate of tax. This economic truism, which has been forgotten in Britain since the early 1980s, will be recalled by the elecorate as a result of the VAT fiasco.

To make sure of imprinting on the public mind the Government's responsibility for choosing the tax structure and shifting the burden of taxes between groups of voters, all Tony Blair has to do tomorrow is ask Mr Clarke one question: "Instead of imposing all these complex, mean little taxes and spending cuts to recoup the revenue you lost on Tuesday, why don't you just make a simple announcement which the people and the markets will immediately understand? Simply announce that you will take £1 billion off the reductions in income tax you were planning to make in 1996."

For the financial markets, which were never remotely as worried about VAT revenues as the Chancellor pretended, that reassurance would certainly be good enough. The real fears in the City about fiscal policy are no longer about the PSBR, this year or next. They concern the longer-term outlook after what is now almost universally expected to be a wild binge of pre-election cuts in income tax. The optimists say, of course, that destabilising policy changes are no longer a worry; we now have a virtually independent Bank of England to insure us against another Lawson-style binge.

For some, the decision to raise base rates yesterday, in the midst of the political crisis, was further evidence of how powerful the Bank has become. But there is another, more cynical, way to look at yesterday's sudden move on base rates. The Bank may have been hinting for over a month that it favours a monetary tightening, but the extraordinary timing of yesterday's action swept into irrelevance all the economic arguments for and against higher interest rates.

Just like the rate cut ordered by John Major in February 1993 from his trip to India, this move in base rates is bound to be seen by the public as a panic measure, designed both to punish the Tory rebels and to stave off an indefinable financial crisis of the kind that often engulfs British governments that have lost political control.

Whatever the Chancellor's true motivation, therefore, yesterday's move is bound to drag monetary policy back into the centre of political controversy. More importantly, it is bound to make the Government even more unpopular and the economy substantially weaker in the crucial pre-Christmas period. The setback to consumer and business confidence will, in turn, depress the economy and further undermine Mr Major's political standing.

The ultimate result could easily be a vicious circle of gloomy economic news and political panic, feeding on one another — eventually triggering the loss of international confidence and the very financial crisis the Chancellor so fears.

Of course, this dismal analysis would prove wrong if the British economy were really as strong as the Bank and the City are now assuming. If the economy were really in danger of overheating, as Mr Clarke claimed on television yesterday, a sharp blow to business and consumer confidence might be just what the doctor ordered. But in projecting forward the surge of exports that accounted for most of the economy's strength in the past year, the City and the Chancellor are probably making a big mistake.

They are also ignoring the new economic philosophy at the Bank of England. The Bank seems determined not just to confine inflation to its target range, but to keep it permanently under 2 per cent, without allowing any cyclical variation. To prevent inflation from moving up and down a little, in rhythm with the economic cycle, would be unprecedented in post-war history — as the bottom chart shows. The only way to do this will be to keep the economy in a permanent state of stagnation and high unemployment. That seems to be precisely the Bank's long-term objective.

Take permanent stagnation, combine it with ministerial incompetence and mutiny in the government party. The mixture could prove explosive — or should we say suicidal?

A watchdog ready to learn new tricks

Oftel wants to loosen its grip on the telecoms industry, **Eric Reguly** says

The Office of Telecommunications has sent out a clear message that it wants a career change. It no longer feels the need to be a full-time regulator, examining every aspect of the operating licences of British Telecom and its rivals. It wants to get away from details and step back so that it can occupy itself with broader issues, such as ensuring the market is free of anti-competitive practices. "Oftel's long-term aim is to move towards a framework of minimal regulation and market-determined prices," it said in a statement.

Kevin Langford, an analyst with Robert Fleming Securities, said: "Oftel recognises that the old regime is unworkable. There are 50 to 60 competitors now, and, going forward, it wants to take a general referee's role."

The question is: how does Oftel get there?

Yesterday, Don Cruickshank, its director-general, set the ball rolling with a 71-page document called *A Framework for Effective Competition*. This presents several broad options, none of which it is committed to, and seeks the opinions of the industry and the public. The consultations will occur over the next three months and will lead to a statement of Oftel's intentions in the summer. New regulations governing the industry should take effect in a year or so.

> Unsurprisingly, BT likes the free market scenario

The key to the effort is reforming "interconnection" charges, the fees paid by one company to another for completing calls. Since BT has the broadest network, it collects the most fees.

Interconnection fees and the separate tariff that BT collects for maintaining its local network, known as the access-deficit charge, can be expensive. Mercury Communications, which has just announced that it will cut 2,500 of its 11,400 jobs, this year will pay BT about £50 million in access-deficit charge. It pays interconnection charges on top of that.

Oftel hears endlessly that interconnection charges are inefficient, discriminatory, opaque and unsustainable. Until they are based on economic principles, the market cannot be more open and more competitive.

Mr Cruickshank presented four major options to reform the charges. They range from what he called "tinkering" with the current regime to the most radical scenario — allowing BT to set its own interconnection fees. Oftel likes this option. "A regulatory regime which would give BT greater freedom in setting prices is an objective to aim for," its document says. Between the extremes are two schemes in which the access deficit charge is eliminated. BT might be able to recover the lost income by charging more for phone-line rentals.

BT, not surprisingly, likes the free-market scenario. But beyond applauding Oftel's long-term goal of allowing the industry the freedom to set its own interconnection charges, it had few nice things to say about Mr Cruickshank's paper. John Butler, BT's director of regulatory affairs, noted that there is no guarantee of price freedom; it is only one of several options. Furthermore, BT is worried that Oftel will never allow it to set prices because it is so much larger than its rivals. To prove its point, BT highlights a paragraph in the "minimum regulatory intervention" option, which one of its officials called a "rattling good read". The sentence reads: "The precise extent of the licence conditions (in this option) would depend on the degree of competition in the market." In other words, if BT remains the giant it is today, Oftel might continue to regulate it closely.

What is the average customer to make of all this? Mr Cruickshank gave assurances that no one would be damaged while the regulatory climate changes. The price cap based on the retail price index minus 7.5 percentage points will remain until 1997. The requirement to give a phone service to any customer, no matter where he lives, remains too.

Nonetheless, customers may feel it is not in their best interest to see Oftel become less of a regulator and more of a referee. To them, Mercury's redundancy measures seem proof that the industry is becoming less competitive. They could insist that Oftel keeps a close eye on BT, and that's what BT is worried about.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Emphasis on property leaves rail sale on wrong lines

From Mr Nick Hallings-Pott

Sir, Reading Ross Tieman's article on Paying a Big Price for Railtrack (November 25), it is becoming clearer by the day that the thinking behind the sell-off is going to be driven by the property factor. Is it not therefore time to acknowledge that what was originally conceived as a solution to a transport problem is becoming confused with a property deal/tax handout?

I wonder if it is not too late to look at a simpler solution. Why not separate the transport essentials of track, signalling and perhaps even platforms from the essentials of stations and associated land development? It has always seemed an eccentric solution to separate train operation from the track, and it has been proved elsewhere in the world that access to track can be given to third parties even where the major train operating company is in total control. By isolating the property element, train operating companies could rely on track and signalling costs and investment being under their control, whilst station and land development could not be accused of taking priority over the operational side of the railway.

The most visible and welcome evidence of Railtrack's activities has been a tendency to turn some of our larger termini into shopping malls, but one cannot help reflecting that passengers are not primarily shoppers and vice versa. It is essential that the long-term future of the railway system is not compromised by the suspicion that once the shopping equation has been resolved the transport element will be allowed to deteriorate, and our termini concourses will be treated on a par with retail stores.

Yours faithfully,
NICK HALLINGS-POTT,
Hackhurst Farm,
Lower Dicker,
Hailsham,
East Sussex.

Too much cream in milk returns

From Mr Stuart Pattison

Sir, Northern Foods (November 23) should tell it as it is, and not indulge in special pleading. It was milk buyers such as them who offered farmers a higher price than Milk Marque for ex-farm milk. The piddling increase in price that is now being paid to dairy farmers in no way is proportionate or excuses the huge 2p/pint increase being charged for the doorstep pinta.

Either Northern Foods could easily afford to pay, or, if it could not, it should not have offered more money to farmers than the very realistic price being offered to them by Milk Marque. He who speaks out of both sides of mouth finds foot in middle.

Britain's highly efficient and hard-working dairy farmers would be delighted if they were able to earn anything like the return on capital enjoyed by Northern Foods and others involved with food distribution and retailing.

Yours faithfully,
STUART PATTISON,
Dairy Farming Contractor,
6 Church Lane,
Calstock, Cornwall.

Fines expose weakness of cartels law

From Mr S. L. Sidkin

Sir, The imposition by the European Commission of multimillion pound fines on British cement companies (Commission fines cement cartel £200 million, December 1), throws into stark relief the inadequacy of UK competition law in dealing with cartels.

This is particularly so given two recent events. First, the decision last month of the House of Lords that companies can be liable for the actions of their employees in engaging in cartels. Second, the fact that the Commission's decision came less than 72 hours after Sir Bryan Carsberg had decided to resign as Director-General of Fair Trading. There is speculation that the Government's long standing failure to reform restrictive trade practice law played an important factor in his decision.

If this is so, it is regrettable. But his decision to go prematurely is but a skirmish in the battle for the direction of UK competition policy.

If there is to be no legislative reform, the President of the Board of Trade should say so. At the same time, he should follow the lead of one of his predecessors, Lord Tebbit, and announce a doctrine so that the rules are clearly understood by all.

Yours faithfully,
S. L. SIDKIN,
Fox Williams,
City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square,
EC2.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112.

Auditors pressed to sign as individuals

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

AUDITORS will be asked to sign their reports on company accounts personally as part of a series of reforms to help to re-establish their authority and bolster their objectivity. The Auditing Practices Board says that signing the name of the individual, rather than a firm, would make auditors more responsible and encourage them to use their judgment.

In *The Audit Agenda*, published yesterday, the APB also calls for auditors to vet chairmen's statements and annual reviews. Ian Percy, who led the committee that drew up the report, said that these "must not project a different view from the financial statements". Auditors should also report to the company board on internal and anti-fraud controls and to shareholders on compliance with the Cadbury code of best practice.

The APB's proposals follow consultation on its 1992 paper, *The Future of Auditing*, which aimed to narrow the "expectations gap" over the role of auditors. John McFarlane, the banker who produced that report, accepted yesterday that they were a compromise designed to receive general support and fell short of the ideas he had raised for discussion.

"This second paper is only a step," he said. "Clearly the job is not yet done, but it makes substantial progress in that direction."

However, Ian Plaistowe, APB chairman, said that the proposals should assure capital markets that companies were subject to "a sound independent audit function".

The Audit Agenda does not try to extend auditors' duty to third-party readers of accounts or to potential stakeholders beyond shareholders, such as employees or the community. This reflects government reluctance to help to limit auditors' financial liability in law.

There was little support for earlier ideas that auditors might be appointed by an outside agency or have limited contracts. Instead, the APB says that an auditor should not sell other services to a client and that a company's audit committee should approve any non-audit work given to the auditor's practice.

The APB will, however, continue research into institutional change and even the possibility of two-tier boards.

Gerry Acher, head of audit at KPMG, said the proposals needed support from regulators, institutions and the profession. However, Roger Davis, head of audit at Cooper & Lybrand, opposed individuals signing reports. "An audit report is not a virility symbol," he said.

Pennington, page 27
Robert Bruce, page 36

Courts edges ahead

COURTS, the furniture retailer, says current trading shows an improving trend after a relatively quiet summer, but that it is still too early to be confident this positive pattern will continue.

The interim dividend is held at 2p, payable on April 7, after pre-tax profits edged higher to £3.3 million (£2.7 million) in the half-year to September 30. Earnings were 6.84p a share, up from 3.94p. The shares rose 3p to 795p.

Turnover in the UK rose to £53.2 million from £48.8 million. Superstores were opened at Newport, Gwent; Romford, Essex; Stratford-upon-Avon and Watford. One was closed at Corby, Northamptonshire. There are now 90 outlets in Britain.

NEWSTEAM



David Codling, chief executive of Hozelock, which has almost doubled its profits in its first full year on the stock market

Foreign lorry builders make inroads in UK

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN lorry builders have increased their share of the UK market by 8.2 per cent to 58.6 per cent in the first 11 months of the year.

Although total sales of lorries and articulated vehicles rose 23 per cent to 41,473 as economic recovery took root, overseas manufacturers mopped up virtually all the growth. Sales of imported vehicles rose by 42.9 per cent, while sales of British-built trucks increased only 2.7 per cent.

Iveco Ford remained the market leader. However, sales of Mercedes trucks exceeded those of Leyland DAF in November. The German manufacturer is now within 50 trucks of ousting the Anglo-Dutch alliance from its second place in the market.

The rapid surge in import penetration partly reflects the structure of UK production. But it will have a disproportionate effect on the balance of payments. Britain is largely a producer of lorries under 17 tonnes, while demand for heavier vehicles, which are largely imported, and are more expensive, has been growing much more strongly.

Overall, exports of commercial vehicles have also been rising. But with continental European markets growing more slowly, it appears that Britain may be opening a widening trade deficit in lorries, which were previously a leading export.

During the 11 months to November 30, 24,306 imported trucks and articulated lorries were registered, up from 17,009, figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show. Sales of British-built trucks rose from 16,719 to just 17,167.

Iveco Group, which builds its lighter ranges in Berkshire, but imports its heavy trucks from continental Europe, increased sales by 11.2 per cent, less than half the market rate. At the same time, heavy truck sales are continuing to lead the recovery, accounting for 58 per cent of the market so far this year.

Leyland DAF sales rose 20.6 per cent to 7,503. Output from Leyland Trucks, the British manufacturing business, totalled 7,699, of which 1,500 were for export. Mercedes took third place with 7,455, while Volvo, the Swedish firm that assembles in Scotland, saw sales rise to 5,655. Scania, of Sweden, was fifth with 3,559, while Britain's ERF recorded UK registrations of 2,335.

Hozelock upbeat on trading

HOZELOCK Group, the maker of garden equipment, almost doubled its pre-tax profits to £7 million, from £3.8 million, in the 12 months to October 1, the company's first full year on the stock market (Martin Barrow writes).

However, the shares, which were issued at 250p, remained at 243p yesterday, in spite of an upbeat statement on current trading by David Hargreaves, the chairman.

"There is strong and increasing demand from retailers to list our products," he said. "The markets for our products are growing, as well as our share of those markets, and we anticipate further progress in the UK and continental Europe."

Turnover rose to £38.6 million, from £32.3 million. Operating margins grew to 18.2 per cent (15.9 per cent). Earnings per share were 20.2p (12.7p). A 5.05p final dividend, making 7.35p, is due on February 15.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bowater pays Fr560m for Bic offshoot

BOWATER, the international packaging group, is buying SOFAB, a French manufacturer of perfume bottle pumps, from Baron Bic's business empire for 560 million francs in cash. The acquisition complements Bowater's existing cosmetics packaging business. SOFAB supplies many famous perfume houses, such as Christian Dior, with pumps and atomisers for their small bottles of perfume.

Based in Normandy, SOFAB was part of the Société Bic group that makes the well-known pens and disposable razors. The company registered sales of Fr171 million in 1993, against Fr89 million in 1990. It made profits of Fr43.8 million in 1993. SOFAB is also developing products for the pharmaceutical industry, creating pumps to deliver exact dosages of drugs for people who need regular medication. Bowater believes this business will fit well with its healthcare packaging operations. Bowater will pay for the deal with the proceeds of the sale of its Australian tissue business.

Acquisition boosts Blick

A 56 per cent rise in turnover, boosted by the £55.8 million acquisition of the time and security business of Mercury Communications, helped Blick, the manufacturer of time control equipment, to lift taxable profits to £12.3 million from £9.4 million in the year to September 30. Earnings improved to 29.7p a share from 26.28p. The total dividend rises to 11.5p a share from 10.2p, with an 8p final, to be paid on April 5. Turnover rose to £51.3 million from £32.8 million. Alan Elliott, chairman, said Blick's time and communications businesses enjoyed substantial additional revenue.

Border TV advances

BORDER Television, the independent television company chaired by Melvyn Bragg, said a 17 per cent jump in advertising revenue, plus tight control of costs, resulted in a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £849,000 in the six months to October 31. Profits would have been £297,000 higher had it not been for start-up costs of £588,000 associated with Century Radio and Scot-FM, only partly offset by a £291,000 profit from the sale of the group's stake in Bay Radio. The interim dividend rises to 1.9p from 1.6p, payable from earnings of 7.2p a share, against 6.7p.

Hicking Pentecost buys

HICKING Pentecost, the engineering company, is buying Dewey Waters, a waste storage systems maker, for £2.7 million. Dewey Waters was formerly owned by Bimec Industries, which paid £11 million for the business in 1991 but is now in receivership. Net assets being acquired amount to about £1 million. In the year to March 31, the business earned operating profit of £450,000. Hicking Pentecost yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £2.35 million for the six months to September 30, up from £1.98 million. Earnings were 8.4p a share (8.8p). The interim dividend is 1.8p (1.55p).

Taylor Woodrow buy-in

TAYLOR Woodrow, the construction to housebuilding group, has appointed Hoare Govett and James Capel, the brokers, to implement the purchase of up to 10 per cent of its shares. Approval for the share buy-back programme was granted by shareholders at the annual meeting in May. The scheme is intended to give the company a more efficient capital structure, enhance earnings per share and create the potential for boosting future shareholder value. Colin Parsons, the chairman, said: "We are able to implement the programme because of our success in generating cash."

MORGAN GRENFELL

Morgan Grenfell announces that its Base Rate is increased from 5.75% to 6.25% per annum with effect from 7 December 1994 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Morgan Grenfell Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
Member of The Securities and Futures Authority
23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2P 2AX

BASE RATE

With effect from
Wednesday 7th December 1994
Coutts & Co
have increased
their Base Rate
from 5.75% to 6.25%
per annum.

Coutts & Co
440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 5.75%p.a. to 6.25%p.a. with effect from close of business 7th December 1994.

ANZ Grindlays Bank
Private Banking
13 St.James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF
Telephone: 071-930 4611
Member ANZ Group

informative:

our base rate has increased and we'd like to tell our customers how they will be affected.

Commencing 7 December 1994, the First Direct base rate increased by 0.5% to 6.25%.
All facilities (including regulated customer agreements) with a rate of interest linked to our base rate will vary accordingly.
The authorised overdraft rate on a Premier Cheque Account is increased by 0.5% to 9.25% per annum. The interest rate on the First Direct HomeOwner Reserve has increased by 0.5% to 12.5% per annum.
The authorised overdraft rate on a Cheque Account is unchanged at 12.0% per annum for the first £250 of authorised borrowing, and at 18% per annum for the remainder of any authorised borrowing above £250.

first direct
First Direct,
Millshaw Park Lane,
Leeds LS98 1FD.
0345 100 100
First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc
Member HSBC Group

National Westminster Bank

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 7 December 1994 its Base Rate is increased from 5.75% to 6.25% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

BASE RATE

With effect from
7 December 1994
The Royal Bank of Scotland
Base Rate has
been increased
from 5.75% to
6.25% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.
Registered in Scotland No. 90312

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

BASE RATE CHANGE

With effect from close of business on Wednesday 7th December 1994, Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 5.75% p.a. to 6.25% p.a.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC.
PART OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT
1 Balloon St., Manchester M60 4EP. Tel: 061 832 3456

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on Wednesday 7th December, 1994 and until further notice, Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

6.25% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

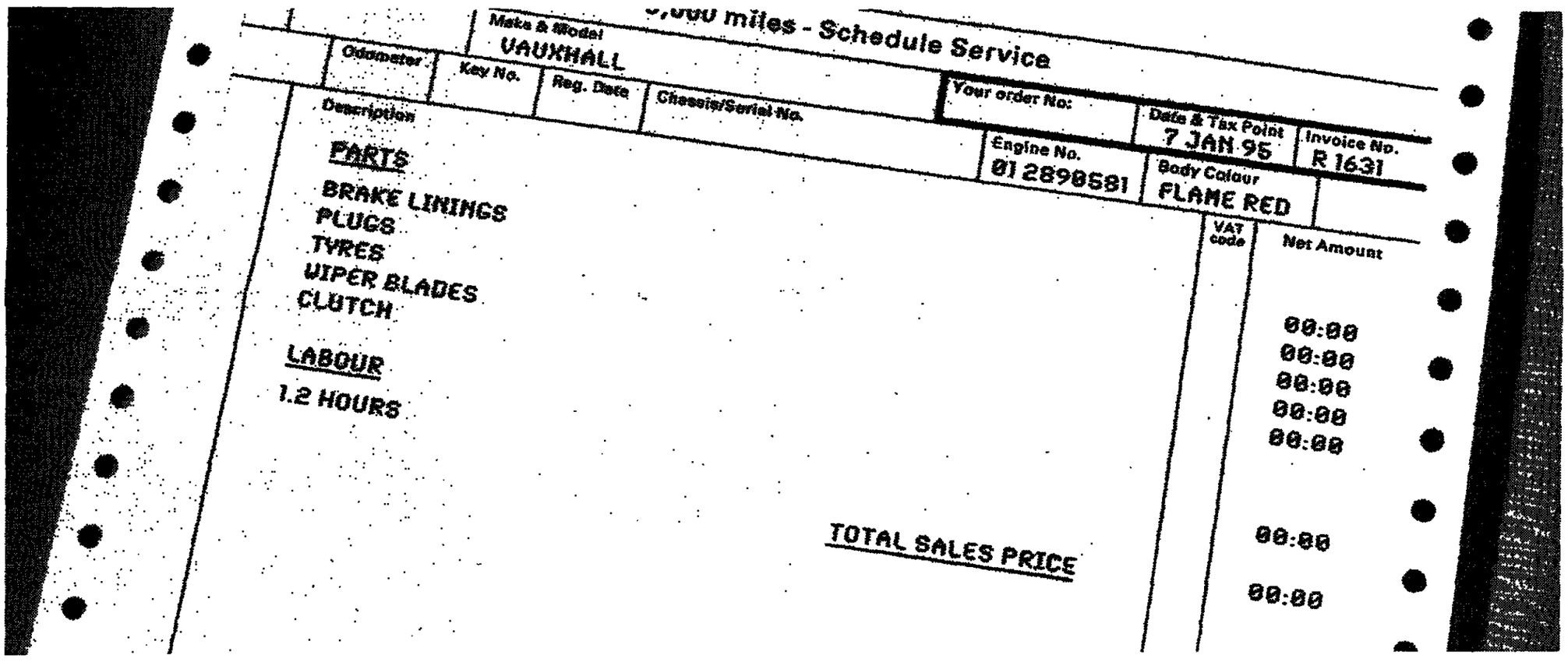
HILL SAMUEL
BANK
Hill Samuel Bank Limited
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ
A Member of The Securities and Futures Authority.

هكذا من الأصل

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ANNOUNCING ANOTHER FREE SERVICE TO OUR BUSINESS CUSTOMERS.

FREE SERVICE.



At Vauxhall, we know how hard it can be to keep your company car costs under control these days.

So, as the first in a series of initiatives from our brand new Business Partners Scheme we're proud to introduce MasterService.

When you invest in a Vauxhall for your business we'll give you three years (or 60,000 miles) of routine servicing completely free.

That includes labour as well as parts like brake linings, clutch plates, wiperblades, lubricants and up to five new tyres.

Add to that three years of free AA cover, Vauxhall's comprehensive security package and the new Vauxhall Test Drive Programme and you've got a company car service that's second to none.

(It seems that fleet managers agree. In the recent PHH Awards and against some stiff opposition they've just voted the Cavalier as the best car in the Medium Business Class and the Astra as number one in the Lower Business Class.)

A word to the wise however. To join the Vauxhall Business Partners Scheme you must enrol by 20th December 1994.

Call 0800 360 360 now. You see, even the phone call is free.

ENROLMENT DEADLINE 20TH DEC. 1994.

BUSINESS PARTNERS FROM VAUXHALL

THE MASTERSERVICE PROGRAMME COVERS THE COST OF ALL ROUTINE SERVICING ON PETROL ENGINED ASTRAS, CAVALIERS AND CALIBRAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EACH VEHICLE'S SERVICE BOOKLET. VEHICLES MUST BE REGISTERED BETWEEN 17TH OCTOBER 1994 AND 28TH FEBRUARY 1995. PLEASE TELEPHONE 0800 360 360 BY 20TH DECEMBER AND YOU WILL BE SENT THE APPLICATION FORM AND THE ELIGIBILTY RULES. THE MASTERSERVICE COVER INCLUDES 3 YEAR VAUXHALL ASSISTANCE AND VAUXHALL SECURITY. THE PROVISION OF A LOAN CAR UNDER THE TERMS OF VAUXHALL ASSISTANCE AND VAUXHALL SECURITY AS WELL AS LABOUR, OIL, FILTERS, PLUGS, BRAKE LININGS, WIPER BLADES, CLUTCH AND UP TO 5 TYRES BUSINESS PARTNERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MASTERSERVICE INITIATIVES ARE EXCLUDED FROM ALL OTHER MARKETING PROGRAMMES EXCEPT THE FREE MOBILE PHONE OFFER

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
0856 259 763				
Gresham Amer	153.20	162.20†	– 0.60	0.36
Gresham Equity	225.70	240.10	+ 1.80	1.24
Gresham Euro	184.20	195.50	– 0.60	0.55
Gresham Expl Bal	108.80	113.80	...	...
Gresham Gth	71.75	75.97	– 0.30	5.21
Gresham Japan	172.00	182.10†	– 1.30	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
0203 553 231				
General Acc	508.18	540.60	+ 4.70	2.67
General Inc	448.16	476.80	+ 4.20	2.67
UK Growth Acc	342.90	364.80†	+ 3.30	2.52
UK Growth Inc	334.70	348.70†	+ 2.30	2.95
Higher Inc Acc	541.50	582.50†	+ 3.30	4.11
Higher Inc Inc	370.80	394.50†	+ 1.80	4.11
Offsh/Fed Int Acc	181.00	191.10	+ 0.50	0.00
Offsh/Fed Int Inc	97.90	92.94	+ 0.13	0.00
Nth America	245.50	261.20†	– 1.80	...
Far East	344.30	367.00†	– 3.00	0.07
Europe	260.10	277.00	– 0.40	0.65
Brit Enrolt	97.67	71.39†	+ 0.79	3.18
Brit Fed/Inc Acc	96.82	103.00	+ 0.20	4.84
Brit Fed/Inc Inc	71.00	75.54	+ 0.15	4.84
Global Opps	100.01	107.14†	+ 0.35	0.56
Balanced Acc	51.36	55.18†	+ 0.21	3.07
Balanced Inc	50.05	54.10†	+ 0.21	3.07
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	125.20	132.90†	– 0.50	7.72
High Inc Equity	163.60	164.60	+ 1.10	4.76
Worldwide Bond	257.80	273.50†	– 0.90	5.65
Capital Growth				
American Growth	268.20	286.60	– 2.30	.80
Asian Pacific	315.10	335.20	– 3.70	..
Assets & Earnings	247.30	263.30†	+ 1.50	2.70
Comdty & Energy	186.20	113.10	– 2.20	.04
Euro Capital Inc	127.70	136.60	– 0.50	.71
(Accum Units)	135.40	145.80	– 0.60	.71
General	213.30	226.90	+ 1.70	2.48
Japan	126.10	134.10	– 1.20	..
Mastertrac	135.60	145.00	– 0.60	1.62
UK Growth Dist	113.50	121.40	– 0.50	2.41
US Emerging Cos	127.10	135.90	– 1.30	..
Income & Growth	367.40	384.50†	+ 2.60	3.25
Gilt Fd	94.63	98.65	+ 0.13	3.07
International	113.70	121.00	– 0.70	.85
Dividend & Growth	57.85	61.55	+ 0.28	4.57
Global Gwth & Sec	65.97	70.33	– 0.15	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.31	£18.97	...	..
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 blocked				
Amer Inc & Growth	41.38	42.98	– 0.27	0.72
Cash	50.04	50.04†	...	4.50
European	105.70	110.40	– 0.40	..
Exempt	952.50	£10.24	– 4.50	1.61
Extra Income #	47.33	49.78†	– 0.14	6.19
Far East Emg Eco	111.50	118.50	– 1.00	0.53
Fixed Interest #	21.87	22.96†	– 0.07	9.00
Fixed Inv Tst	121.40	130.50	– 0.20	0.93
Japan	181.50	190.20	– 1.00	..
Latin American	72.27	75.98	– 0.24	0.64
Pacific	70.22	73.92	– 0.51	0.36
Property Share	61.12	64.16	– 0.03	2.05
UK Emerging Cos	91.32	84.27	– 0.10	1.93
UK Growth	42.16	44.84	– 0.26	2.30
Abtr World Port #	69.84	71.20†	+ 0.01	2.30
Ethical	38.47	41.37†	– 0.17	2.86
Aberdeen Gth Inc #	48.52	48.57†	– 0.05	7.72
AESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0211 549 3232				
British Growth	66.02	70.23†	+ 0.21	2.72
British Income	76.28	81.14†	+ 0.40	3.44
Select Portfolio	82.31	87.57†	– 0.28	..
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
0462 305 958				
Annty Income	71.88	76.26	+ 0.17	0.00
Income Builder Inc	84.56	88.68†	+ 0.49	0.00
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	215.20	230.00	+ 0.50	3.39
Capital	378.30	404.30	+ 0.10	2.05
Balanced	637.80	681.80†	+ 0.90	2.92
Accumulator	£11.72	£12.52†	+ 3.00	3.74
Income Trusts				
American Income	44.73	47.81	– 0.30	3.72
High Income	368.70	393.40†	+ 0.20	3.82
Equity Income	210.60	225.30	+ 0.20	3.76
High Yield	225.50	241.00†	+ 0.20	3.61
Gilt Securities	92.32	34.12†	+ 0.03	6.21
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	133.10	142.20	– 0.80	0.48
European Growth	33.10	35.32	– 0.08	0.91
International	153.60	164.10	– 1.10	0.29
Japan	206.50	220.10	– 1.50	0.01
Pacific	389.70	416.50	– 3.70	0.61
Secs of America	388.40	412.30†	– 2.00	0.56
Wordr Asset Mgt	45.88	48.04	– 0.31	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	485.40	518.80†		2.46
Conv & Gilt	41.77	44.65	+ 0.02	5.20
Smaller Cos	158.90	169.80	– 0.20	1.31
2nd Smaller Cos	150.60	160.90	– 0.10	1.51
Recovery	127.40	136.10†	+ 0.10	1.95
Mkt Min & Cstry	142.80	152.60†	– 0.60	0.78
Overs Earnings	325.10	347.50†	– 1.50	1.94
Technology	155.10	165.80†	– 1.20	0.91
UK Special Sits	417.90	446.70	+ 0.40	1.94
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0293 526 911				
Cntrctl Opt Prec	95.06	98.76	..	1.45
Foundtn Pac/ Prec	60.65	63.01	..	4.00
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	67.05	71.33	+ 0.29	1.85
International	61.51	65.44	– 0.32	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
031 222 4242				
America	282.80	283.40	– 3.10	
Bond	109.00	114.70	– 0.90	7.26
Brit Smlr Cos	95.52	101.40	..	5.04
Cnsv & Bpn #	63.88	68.10	– 0.68	5.50
Energy				
Europe	213.00	226.90	– 0.30	0.52
Euro Smlr Cos	97.14	103.50†	– 0.40	0.66
Income Gwth	322.90	344.60	+ 0.30	4.59
Japan	322.00	343.40	– 1.30	..
Pacific	99.45	105.80†	– 1.40	0.75
UK Smlr Cos	50.04	53.23	– 0.01	1.29
Japan Fd	724.10	745.60	– 2.90	..
Mngd Fd	164.60	175.00	..	3.00
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
071 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	267.80	281.90	..	1.31
Capital Gwth	105.10	110.60		2.44
Wrldwd Opps	175.70	184.90		0.44
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
081 534 5644				
Balanced Trusts				
Bkd Inv Fd Inc	323.60	337.10†	+ 3.50	3.08
Europrime Bd Inc	88.81	91.94	– 0.29	7.76
Exempt	68.75	73.33†	+ 0.35	4.48
Financial	68.44	73.20†	+ 0.53	2.88
500.0	421.20	446.50	+ 0.30	3.72
General	255.80	273.40	+ 2.0	2.73
Property	245.40	262.50†	..	5.17
Trustee	172.50	184.50	+ 1.0	2.61
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.60	100.60		4.99
Extra Income	109.80	117.40	+ 0.70	4.31
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.51	57.36†	– 0.14	8.58
Income	494.80	529.20	+ 2.60	4.24
Income Builder	59.75	63.57	+ 0.23	4.99
Intl Income	69.13	63.97	– 0.39	3.08
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	110.10	117.40	+ 1.20	2.61
Leisure	115.40	123.40	+ 0.20	1.37
Recovery	388.70	415.70	+ 2.40	2.77
Smlr Cos Inc	41.51	44.09	+ 0.17	3.11
Special Sits	282.40	301.60	+ 1.30	1.69
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	117.70	124.80†	– 1.10	0.74
Asset Acc	224.60	240.10	+ 0.70	2.21
Asst Inc	146.00	155.30†	– 2.40	2.21
Euro Cash Inc	144.20	152.90	– 0.80	0.64
(Accum Units)	154.30	163.60	– 0.90	0.64
Japan & Gen Inc	177.60	188.30	– 0.50	..
(Accum Units)	179.90	190.80	– 0.60	..
Japan Spec Sits	92.12	97.00	– 0.17	..
Unic Tech Inc	75.84	80.59	– 0.32	0.30
Worldwide	162.10	172.10	– 0.88	0.73
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
081 668 8002				
American Growth	89.34	94.91	– 0.68	..
Asset Invstr Cos	133.30	132.0	– 0.90	..
Convertibles	54.12	57.36	+ 0.12	5.70
Eastern	262.10	282.70	– 2.80	0.10
Equity Income	84.56	89.56†	+ 0.54	4.90
European Growth	261.60	286.80	+ 0.80	1.80
Europe	297.40	292.30†	– 1.00	0.66
German Growth	98.01	72.15	– 0.26	0.41
Global Bond	61.61	64.90	– 0.20	8.40
Global Growth	120.20	128.30	– 0.60	..
Japan Growth	332.20	215.80	– 1.90	..
Japan Smaller	175.40	186.00	– 1.00	..
Korea Trust	83.47	93.23	– 1.10	..
Portfolio	125.50	134.30	– 0.10	1.86
(Accum Units)	229.0	245.0	– 0.30	1.86
UK Growth	78.68	84.77	+ 0.08	1.49
UK Smaller Cos	85.61	88.42	+ 0.07	1.16
Select Managers	71.07	76.15	+ 0.01	1.10
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 250 3000				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	74.04	78.77	..	..
Special Oppor Inc	54.26	57.72	..	..
BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
071 236 9441				
Special Sits	163.40	174.80	– 1.80	1.61
Dividend	98.51	96.11	– 0.57	4.09
Int Gth & Inc	202.10	216.10	– 1.20	3.35
UK & Gen	41.92	44.83	– 0.18	2.62
Fund of Funds	61.65	65.94	– 0.19	..
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
041 223 8020				
Balanced Growth	98.38	104.00	..	1.78
(Accum Units)	100.48	106.91	..	1.78
Smaller Cos	99.68	105.38†	..	1.33
Higher Yield #	42.72	44.88	..	4.91
American Gth Inc	67.66	71.68	..	..
European Growth	129.18	136.70	..	0.85
(Accum Units)	131.75	139.38	..	0.85
Global Bond Inc #	75.86	37.29†	..	7.21
Mngd Pnsn Inc	40.21	42.54	..	1.41
(Accum Units)	40.78	43.14	..	1.41
Int Stock Opps	119.76	117.21	..	0.44
Pacific Gth	125.10	132.36	..	..
Formerly LAS				
UK General #	70.58	74.70	..	3.54
(Accum Units) #	71.34	75.49	..	3.54
Japan	84.35	88.31	..	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	92.82	94.71†	..	7.35
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
071 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	64.21	65.04	– 0.19	6.33
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
061 837 5080				
Evelon	144.00	153.20†	+ 0.10	1.76
Ukl Growth	156.20	166.20†	+ 0.30	1.44
Ukl Income	124.70	132.70	+ 0.30	4.55
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0707 851 122				
Can Gen Dist	176.80	187.40	+ 1.00	2.11
-do- Income Dist	162.00	168.20†	+ 0.60	4.62
(Accum Units)	309.60	326.40	+ 1.80	2.42
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.17	41.52	+ 0.05	8.55
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
081 336 5885 Enq: 081 206 6885 Dlg: 081 206 5362				
American & Gen	142.40	151.50	– 0.80	..
European Inc	74.42	78.83	+ 0.16	0.42
Smaller Cos (4-1)	78.57	81.25	– 0.35	1.58
Growth	362.70	417.80	+ 2.10	2.41
Income & Growth	381.10	405.50	+ 3.40	4.09
(Accum Units)	535.40	569.60	+ 4.80	4.09
Japan & Gen	72.93	77.39	– 0.74	..
Master Portfolio	138.76	£102.65†	+21.00	1.99
(Accum Units)	£117.42	£122.05	+26.00	1.99
Special Sits	80.58	86.37	+ 0.47	2.35
High Yield	£12.25	£12.83†	+10.00	4.62
For Capital House see Newton				
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
071 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	79.37	84.65	..	2.31
American Portfolio	83.91	89.36†	..	1.22

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Portfolio	90.90	96.76		0.66
Japanese Portfolio	85.66	89.74	– 0.22	..
Pacific Portfolio	135.01	145.18†	– 1.26	0.69
UK Inc & Growth	71.41	76.56		3.58
Utility & Bond	52.75	53.29	– 0.38	7.87
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	844.85	851.35		4.74
Fxd In Sec	148.35	148.40		8.77
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 352 5000				
Uk General Tst	81.84	85.76	+ 0.48	3.04
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 588 1815				
Inc	638.66	643.24		4.74
Accum	£28.89	£27.12		9.59
Int	128.76	128.85		..
(Accum Units)	185.70	186.17		..
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 387 7667				
Ind Growth	128.26	131.29		5.227
Uk Income	103.54	112.84		..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 407 5566				
Beckman Inst	73.84	77.40	+ 1.32	1.56
Black Rk-Tech	25.85	27.70†		..
Acorn Ethical Tst	148.60	158.52†		1.04
City Fin Assets	66.96	71.23		1.28
City Fin America	76.52	83.70	– 0.03	..
City Fin Ind	73.26	77.12†	– 0.79	0.94
City Fin Japan	165.61	174.33	– 2.39	..
Friars Hse Cns	258.03	278.96		1.97
Friars Hse Inc	196.24	196.13†		4.16
Bradley Wkr Gth	127.89	136.05	– 1.05	0.89
Fullmrad Cap Sth	134.50	143.08†		
Fullmrad Int	152.14	162.15		
City Fin Pfio Inc	92.76	98.12†		4.38
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
071 711 0771 Admin: 0227 227 308				
Emerging Markets	57.18	60.67	– 0.16	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	92.29	98.92	– 0.24	..
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.91	37.34	– 0.16	0.53
Dragon Growth	65.99	70.58	– 0.68	0.39
Equity High Inc	76.82	81.83†	+ 0.63	4.12
(Accum Units)	108.13	110.83†	+ 0.85	4.12
European Gwth	48.16	51.26	+ 0.05	0.88
Evergreen	26.96	28.83	– 0.14	
General Equity	76.36	80.14	+ 0.76	2.68
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	24.00	25.23	+ 0.02	8.41
Japan Growth	61.80	66.39	– 0.46	..
Prefrngner Gwth	47.35	50.37	+ 0.37	2.77
Pwf Sm Cos Inc	29.25	31.12†	– 0.06	1.20
(Accum Units)	39.39	30.93	– 0.07	1.20
Retirement Inc #	24.88	26.54	+ 0.17	6.62
Special Sits	35.39	38.39	+ 0.14	2.02
UK & Overseas	45.92	48.86	– 0.01	1.31
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
0534 885 000				
Capital	62.60	66.95	+ 0.56	2.37
Income	56.67	60.69	+ 0.34	4.36
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
081 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	148.84	158.34	+ 1.13	5.86
Fixed & Convertible	38.47	40.93	+ 0.09	7.59
Monthly Inc Plus	47.15	50.16	– 0.07	8.58
Preference Share	45.67	48.58	– 0.01	7.55
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	118.41	125.97	+ 0.85	7.40
Managed Fund	64.24	68.34	+ 0.14	3.89
Uk Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	37.51	39.90	– 0.10	1.70
(Accum Units)	42.92	45.66	– 0.11	1.70
Uk & General	71.39	75.97	+ 0.27	2.84
(Accum Units)	91.85	97.71	+ 0.97	2.84
Uk Growth	131.13	139.50	+ 1.39	2.44
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	181.15	192.71	+ 0.28	0.26
Far Eastern Gth	126.26	134.32	– 1.00	..
Global Bond	74.54	79.64	– 0.11	0.39
Japan Growth	121.77	129.54	– 0.58	..
North Amer Gth	151.75	161.44	– 0.61	..
Oriental Growth	72.99	76.68	– 0.80	..
Worldwide Growth	81.25	85.16	– 0.07	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.16	92.16	+ 0.01	5.30
Homeseeker Fund	73.68	78.39	+ 0.38	1.93
Quilter Fund	121.19	128.93	+ 0.92	3.04
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
0438 744 848				
Growth Inc	54.85	58.35	+ 0.48	3.10
(Accum Units)	58.66	62.40	+ 0.53	3.10
High Income	31.76	33.80	+ 0.22	4.80
Japan	36.05	38.35	– 0.41	..
Smaller Cos Inc	28.12	30.97†	– 0.04	2.68
Smaller Cos	30.63	32.79	– 0.04	2.68
North American	31.49	33.43	– 0.27	0.50
European	33.52	37.76	+ 0.03	0.50
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
071 407 5965				
Consistent UT	29.62	31.76	..	3.40
COOKE (HENRY) DIV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	132.40	140.90†		2.21
Income	67.21	71.51†	+ 0.23	5.17
European	58.55	62.34†	– 0.07	1.13
Recovery	146.10	155.50	– 0.50	2.31
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
071 393 9494				
Equity Dist	777.90	790.70†		3.65
CREDIT SUISSE DIV FDS (UK) LTD				
0277 896 370				
Fellowship Tst	67.23	71.52	+ 0.05	1.35
Income #	221.50	235.60	+ 1.60	4.98
(Accum Units) #	545.50	580.30	+ 3.90	4.98
Smaller Cos	146.10	155.40	– 0.20	0.86
(Accum Units)	176.10	189.40	– 0.30	0.86
Inv Portfolio	74.26	79.10	+ 0.45	1.51
High Inc Port #	64.54	68.65	+ 0.53	5.10
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	£14.78	£15.14†		..
Japan Small Cos	£12.24	£12.48†		..
Uk Small Cos	£17.05	£17.81		..
US Small Cos	£15.11	£15.55†		..
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
071 377 8819				
Disc Inc	193.60	203.80†		2.89
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
031 315 2500				
European Gwth	260.50	275.40		1.01
New Asia	204.60	217.60	– 2.30	0.16
Japan Growth	121.40	129.20	– 1.20	..
Jap Smlr Co	457.80	529.20	– 4.10	..
Nth Amer	237.80	252.80	– 1.30	0.94
Shelfed Asia Pac Mt	113.00	119.30	– 1.40	0.36
UK Inc & Gwth	198.70	212.10	+ 1.80	3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
0345 577 995				
UK Balanced Inc	130.80	139.10	+ 0.80	1.82
UK High Inc Inc	138.50	147.30	+ 0.80	4.89
(Accum Units)	177.30	188.60	+ 1.00	4.89
UK Pref & Fl Inc	55.54	58.96	– 0.20	5.32
Eurosmlr Opps	78.53	83.54	– 0.12	1.12
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
American	112.60	119.50	– 0.70	1.46
Commodities #	19.75	20.98†	+ 0.01	0.62
Equity Income #	117.80	125.20†	+ 0.80	4.23
EuroFund	42.86	45.44	– 0.01	0.44
Financial	43.68	46.41	+ 0.02	1.62
Growth & Inc #	210.30	223.50	+ 1.40	3.30
High Dist #	143.60	152.50†	+ 0.90	4.91
International	378.80	402.50	+ 1.40	0.12
Inv Cap Inc	90.43	96.06	– 0.57	2.86
Latin American	46.80	49.73	+ 0.13	..
Pacific	80.33	85.33	– 0.53	0.96
Preference Share	21.92	23.29	– 0.03	7.06
Tokyo	227.00	241.20	– 1.20	..
Uk Smaller Cos	208.30	221.30	– 0.20	1.24
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
071 242 0242				
Elcon Trust	202.85	216.51	– 3.20	0.86
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	184.70	207.10		0.63
EQUITABLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
01256 431 400				
European	75.10	79.05	– 0.13	1.72
Ethical Tst	42.31	44.54	– 0.16	1.30
Far Eastern	269.83	305.00	– 2.16	1.81
High Income	121.72	128.12†	– 0.85	5.83
Intl Growth	115.75	121.82	– 0.77	1.41
North American	102.81	108.22	– 0.66	1.29
Pelican	108.86	114.59	+ 0.28	3.30
Smaller Cos	66.84	70.36†	+ 0.20	2.42
Special Sits	84.08	88.42	+ 0.02	2.52
Tst of Inv Trsts	178.99	188.30	– 0.46	1.48
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 407 5965				
Smaller Cos Inc	186.25	204.44	– 1.07	1.43
Smaller Cos Acc	343.42	357.73	– 1.86	1.43
Recovery	50.0	52.09†		1.06
Recovery Acc	50.52	52.63†	– 0.01	1.06
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0392 412 144				
Balanced	105.11	111.88†	– 0.07	6.21
Capital Growth	77.79	83.42	– 0.06	..
Fd of Inv Trsts	43.62	46.59	– 0.12	0.62
High Income #	43.09	46.18	– 0.05	9.66
Managed	94.78	99.52	– 0.30	..
Zero Preference	35.60	37.80†	– 0.07	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0273 220 707				
Family Accss Tst	71.82	76.19†	+0.280	2.36
Family Income Tst	45.75	45.75†	+0.160	6.02
Family Trust	78.87	83.90†	– 0.27	1.18
United Charities	245.90	261.50†	– 0.30	0.19
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callover: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.00
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	26.29	26.39†	– 0.24	7.99
Intl Bond	26.94	27.95	– 0.05	5.28
Income Funds				
High Income	24.58	25.84†	– 0.04	5.25
Income Plus	106.50	112.20†	+ 0.40	4.44
Amer Eq Inc	43.44	46.63	– 0.15	1.56
Emerging Income	40.60	42.67	– 0.13	2.34
Far East Inc	66.26	69.14†	– 0.13	2.25
Global Convertible	22.28	23.77	+ 0.02	3.86
UK Div Gth	22.86	24.42	+ 0.10	1.98
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	59.85	63.86	– 0.45	
American	221.80	235.30†	– 1.00	
Amer Spec Sits	167.30	174.50	– 0.80	
Japan Smaller Cos	39.80	42.46	– 0.17	
European	159.80	169.70	– 0.40	
European Opps	60.66	64.62	– 0.22	
Global Pen	21.50	34.07	– 0.04	1.26
UK Growth	84.79	90.16	+ 0.05	
Growth & Inc	139.20	141.70	+ 0.86	2.82
Intl PEP	34.84	37.05	+ 0.06	
Japan Spec Sits	91.60	97.52	– 0.69	
Japan	195.90	208.40	– 1.40	
Managed Inc	280.50	277.50	– 0.40	
Moneybuilder	50.26	53.47	– 0.21	
Recovery	45.56	48.47	– 0.04	
South E Asia	128.60	140.30	– 1.30	
Special Sits	477.60	508.10	– 1.90	
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	107.36	107.36	+ 0.01	5.00
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 614 2700				
Balanced #	131.20	134.20	– 1.0	1.99
Inc Prefs #	81.19	82.78†	+ 0.24	4.91
Cap Prsvn	139.40	138.30	+ 0.60	0.93
Generic Opps	116.30	118.69†	– 1.50	3.53
Growth Inc	28.07	29.69†	+ 0.27	1.79
Private Portfolio	364.00	381.60	– 5.10	1.51
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq: 071 454 1454 Dlg: 0277 261 010				
Hype Foreign & Colonial				
European	106.80	112.80	– 0.70	0.55
Emrg Asian	162.20	173.50	– 1.10	..
High Income	70.75	72.08†	+ 0.02	10.19
Oriental Income	97.05	92.86†	– 0.30	3.08

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth	103.00	109.30	+ 1.00	1.73
UK Income	96.25	104.80	+ 0.90	4.39
US Smaller Cos	276.00	296.00	– 1.70	..
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
071 407 5966				
High Inc Eqty	45.46	47.82†	+ 0.43	3.53
-do- Inv Tst Inc	72.71	76.46	– 0.10	4.32
Intl Growth	68.23	72.56†		1.25
Investment Trust	86.76	91.26	– 0.28	
UK Smaller Cos	76.91	80.87	+ 0.09	1.35
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
071 374 4100				
American Growth	50.92	54.46	– 0.53	
(Accum Units)	50.92	54.46	– 0.53	
Amer Smlr Cos	42.72	45.70	– 0.46	
(Accum Units				

هكذا من الأصل

Shares lower after volatile session

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Vld %	PE
523	280	Abbey Nat	413	- 2	4.7	13.9
314	232	Allied Irish	247		4.8	7.1
278½	171	Anglo Irish Z	199		2.9	16.1
3,900	2,400	Bank Americas	2,567	- 67		
247	172	Bank Scotland	207		3.2	11.7
540	467	Barclays	509	- 1	3.5	10.5
319	246	Bk of Ireland	281		3.6	8.3
2912%	2362%	Citicorp	2662%	+ 25		
265½	203	Co-op Bnks	228		4.1	
£150½	£121½	Commercial	£127½	- 300p	6.4	
£298½	£256½	Cr Ital Nam 'z'	£271½	+ 18½	0.5	
£2447½	£2170½	Deutsche Bk	£2301½	+ 146½	2.5	
1315%	787½	Espirito Sants	815%		4.7	41
90	60	First Nat Fin	61		3.1	
1549½	1152½	Fuji Bank Y	1314½	- 1½	0.4	
473	309	Hambros	438	+ 2	3.9	14.6
1113	660	HSBC	703	+ 6	4.4	10.2
1133	580	HSBC Hr	698½	+ 2½	4.4	10.1
443	400	Joseph (LH)	410		4.4	11.9
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	668	+ 4	4.9	9.6
660	519	Lloyds	556		5.2	10.9
650½	472	Nat West Bk	525		5.9	9.1
621	451	Nat West	514	+ 5	4.7	9.6
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150		6.8	
79	53	Rea Bros	61		3.1	7.1
578	377½	Rhl Bk Scot	415	- 3	4.3	9.6
1574	1050	Schroders	1430	- 5	1.6	13.0
1456	1043	Schroders NV	1396	- 3	1.8	11.9
114	75	Singer & Fried	88		4.5	11.3
358½	273	Stand Chart	350		2.8	9.7
297	197	TSB	285		3.8	11.6
1012	568	Warburg Sbt	672	+ 1	4.1	12.3
5185	3612½	Wells Fargo	3612½	- 37½	2.9	
290	194	Westpac	211	-	2.6	
350	210	Wintrust	213		6.0	14.2

BREWERIES

10½	1½	Accos Hldgs	1½			
619	485	Bass	516	+ 15	5.2	12.7
258	208	Brockington	256	- 1	4.0	13.9
196	168	Burnmstr Sherl	178		3.6	14.9
161	142	Chrgte 'P' A	167		3.1	
64	46½	Fockes Enswrng	55		2.4	
393	265	Fstr Sm 'A'	368		2.6	15.2
511	399	Greenalls Gn	414	- 1	3.0	14.8
584	452	Gregore Ilsdg	534	- 1	3.0	14.9
285	250	Hardy Hansn	261		4.6	12.5
195	165	Hsehrstne	168		3.3	13.5
3725	3125	Hsll J	3500		3.4	13.8
1141	995	Morshetd	1036	- 6	2.5	14.9
511	356	Mssn Tarmor	394	+ 2	2.5	15.2
545	463	Mvrlandz	479		2.6	
10½	6½	Pncemaster	7¾			
309	209	Pergnt Hms	305	-	4.7	22.6
1555	1000	SA Breweries	1456½	- 35	2.0	24.2
531	477	Scott & Nwnr	497	- 1	4.6	14.6
328	222	Vaux Group	231		5.2	14.9
354½	304½	W-Dersn(on JDr)	338		3.9	24.1
517	494	Whitbread'A'	559	+ 6	4.3	15.3
393	493	Wolvrhmptn D	527		3.4	13.7
191	148	Yates Bros	191		2.0	12.6
565	465	Young 'A'	548		4.0	13.6

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

358	135	Abbey	135		4.9	9.6
148	118	Alfred	143		4.2	10.7
71	47	Amec	70		5.0	43.3
63	47	Andrews Sykes	115	+ 2		
462	333	Ashtead	425		1.6	26.6
191	101	Autocrat	103		9.4	12.0
36	26	Bailey (Ben) Cnc	34		5.9	10.9
18	8½	Barcrft	11	-	9.1	9.9
293	180½	Barratt Devs	184	- 2	4.6	12.7
169	122½	Bazley Homes	131	- 1	5.3	10.3
204	179	Bellway	193	- 1	4.6	
59	31	Bellwtch	52			28.1
341	241	Berkeley Gp	341	- 12	2.6	14.2
215	118	Bett Brosr	180		3.1	5.5
355	210	Bovis	218		3.8	10.7
84	35	Brandon Hire	78		3.4	
356	192	Br Bldg & Engr	160		6.2	10.0
297	120	Bryant	120	- 1	4.8	14.5
1455	108	CALA	108	- 3	3.2	14.9
54	31	Campbell & Asm	35	- 1		
82	44	Carlis T	69		3.2	41.6
42	20½	Costain	42	- ½		
112	85	Countryside	112	- 5	4.8	
120	78	Cstl Nicholson	78		2.6	14.1
148	100	Cwserve	101		4.2	12.2
30	19	Fernhead Hldgs	21		1.8	
473	310	Evo Group	310	- 3	4.4	12.7
60	24	Galliford	56		3.6	
112	87	Gibbs & Dandy	98		3.6	
1028	823	Gleeson (MJ)Tr	826		2.7	
86	71	Green (Emstry)	86		6.7	26.5
191	121	Hawtnck Evrtt	171		2.3	15.7
169	139	Hawtan-Stuart	144	- 1	2.6	16.5
144	86	Higgs & Hill	89		3.5	
20	20	Howard Hdgs	22		4.5	20.5
6	6	Jarvis	11			
104	68	Kellett	114	+	4.1	13.2
428	284	Lang (J)	334	- 1	4.8	21.2
164	90½	Lang G4% Cv Pf	96		8.3	
145	115	Lon Clydesde	135		4.8	17.3
173	62	Lovell (TJ)	69			
196	159	Marshalls (J)	175		3.2	
321	171	McAlpine (A)	177	- 2	4.8	25.1
76½	50½	McCarthy & S	63		1.0	
185½	94	Mowlem (J)	98		2.6	
378½	198	Persimmon	198	- 4	5.6	14.5
2025	1450	Pochins	2025		2.0	20.2
198	175	Powerhtgt	175		3.6	10.0
216	46½	Rshw Mt	47	- 1	8.0	9.8
132	101	Redrow	101	- 1	3.3	10.8
67	50	Sarhtl-Rve	59	- 1	1.6	27.8
365	253	Sheriff Hdgs	364	+ 1	3.5	24.5
125	97½	Smith Group	118		4.4	12.6
245	195	Smal Utd	215		4.8	22.5
280	155½	Spandrl	253		1.2	20.4
297	257	Tay Homes	283		4.9	12.0
183	114½	Taylor Woodrw	124	+ 5	1.6	30.3
760	538	Tilbury Dougls	575		2.9	41.8
60	36	Tarmac Hire	56		2.0	28.7
40½	22	Try Group	32		3.8	
129	90	Vibroplant	117	- 2	4.2	26.6
170	93	Wasmorones	126	- 1	4.8	13.7
74	48	Wash Hdgs	53		4.2	
325½	57	Westbury	137	-	4.9	12.5
7½	3¾	Wiggins	6½			
258	165	Wilcox (C)	165	- 2	3.2	13.7
571	395	Wilcox Sowdn	396	- 1	3.5	15.0
249	87	Wimpey G	138	+ 1	5.0	19.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

37	6	Abingdon	15		6.2	14.4
341	206	Alumasc	338		2.2	
65½	49½	Amberly Gp	49		3.2	26.7
363	264	BPB Ind	282	+ 4	3.6	14.8
142	98	Baggeridge Brk	114		3.4	21.5
60	25	Barlow	32½		4.1	
344	166	Buckstuff Ind	211	- 2	3.3	
93	58	Blacklers	59		1.9	
391	266	Blue Circle	366	+ 2	4.9	20.3
117	77	Breedon PLC	84		6.8	24.8
154	123	Br Dredging	143		5.3	10.8
393	281	Br Polythene	341	+ 1	2.8	17.3
70	38	Caradoc Hldg	38			4.1
278	198	Cape	201		6.9	12.6
369	279	Caradon	297		4.3	17.0
215½	170	Caradon pl	170	+ ½	4.3	
62	46	Chelsfld Gp	54		8.1	10.8
134	89	Dyson (JB)	98		6.3	14.8
97	68	Dyson A	68		6.3	10.4
11½	7½	Edgcse Shnks	9¾		2.4	
350	270	Ellis	280	- 2	5.5	16.6
82	59	Elm	59		3.0	33.2
218	164	Graham Gp	174	- 1	3.3	16.6
399	338	Halstead (J)	348		2.7	16.1
511	394	Hepworth	394	+ 4	6.1	17.3
88	44	Hewetson	85		2.2	14.7
395	83	Hewitt (J)	98		2.2	
473	356	Heywd Wlm	370		6.2	15.2
100	68	Ibstock	77	- 1	1.6	
394	148	Johnsons	244		2.1	31.7
170	113	Lifecrstl	113		5.2	11.8
213½	125	Marley	136	- 1	3.9	16.1
155	136	Marshalls	136	- 1	3.2	31.1
569	344	Meyer Intl	349	+ 3	3.9	13.6
196	148	Newman Tbs	176		4.5	22.1
217½	110	Norcros	110		6.2	20.2
29	9	Phoenix Timber	11			
208	166	Pilkington	193	+ 1	3.1	69.7
185	138	Ploughpe	138		2.1	15.6
1029	802	RMC Gp	969	+ 3	2.7	20.0
49	16	Ramsa	17			
540	447	Redland	457	- 3	6.9	20.9
108	78	Reskel	108		5.4	
165½	114	Rugby Group	118	+ 1	3.7	14.9
20	12	Russell (A)	18		3.2	18.3
288	232	SIG	256	- 1	2.7	20.7
21	16	SWF	17		1.5	13.3
200	158	Sharpe & Fisher	177		3.1	17.3
81½	62	Sprng Rsm	65	+	1.5	
206	171	Tarmac	175	+ 1	5.8	
228	166	Tilos	180		3.4	13.6
370	272	Travis Perkins	288	- 1	3.6	17.8
28	22	Tunnel	22		1.4	
63	34	Uniqroup	34			
83	63	Waterhouse	91			
129	81	Wickes	89		1.8	20.8
975	703	Wimpey Hmstr	742	- 2	2.8	14.8

BUSINESS SERVICES

9½	1½	Anglo Utd	9½			
110	78	App Holo	98			
185	102	Ascnds	121		5.2	
11	5½	Bailey (CH)	6			
48	30	Black Arrow	42		9.2	6.1
124	80	Br Bloodstock	77			69.1
13	6½	Cellnt Gp	6			16.7
109	67	Chemrex	67			
157	109	Cmsh	146		7.1	9.9
337	188	Fiotex	220	- 2	1.2	18.8
50	38	Headway	45	+ 2	3.8	
282	184	Hoskyns	265	+ 2	3.2	31.1
268	184	Lnghrst	169½	- ½	5.8	15.1
374	314	Nobo Gp	324	+ 1	3.3	14.8
310	207	Phoe-Mpl	244		2.5	25.5
60	38	Plans & Instr	56		3.5	
185	80	Pnnscrook	175		2.5	30.4
42	29	Profit Group	8			
51½	15½	Sagdon	10			
120	78	Shanks & McEwan	83		3.2	
244	174	Shires (The)	185		4.8	14.3
700	563	Wesse Mgt Ind	663	- 8		18.6

CHEMICALS

156½	115½	Allied Colloids	120	+ 3	3.5	16.9
790	705	Amber Indt	785		9.3	15.6
2140%	£1065	BASF Dfd	£1240½	+ 240½	7.5	
767	607	BOC	721	+ 1	4.3	27.3
373	281	BTP	293	+ 1	4.6	17.7
£1607½	£1259	Bayer (US$0	£1367½	+ 29½	0.6	
137	98	Bemi Chems	103		4.9	
369	279	Br Vita	293		4.1	17.0
34	18	Cambridge Iso	19			
198	153	Cannng (W)	187		4.9	31.8
580	430	Crodalnds'	452	+ 7	4.3	34.6
389	327	Croda	362	- 1	3.0	15.6
143	95	Dodfin	133		2.8	18.1
68½	35½	Ems Colourt	115	+ 4	6.1	10.5
149	110	Elementis	136	- 2	7.5	13.4
255	191	Hickson	195		4.6	
2153%	£106½	Hoechst	£152½	+ 184½	5.8	
250	153½	Holliday Chem	212	- 3	2.6	17.3
668	726	ICI	734	- 3	4.6	60.9
191½	139½	Kalon	139½	- ¾	3.9	13.2
545	663	Laporte	699	+ 2	3.8	17.2
65	49	MTM	62		0.8	
465	297	Lonrho	309		4.2	14.6
127	100	McLeod Russel	114	+ 2	6.6	
126	61	Metrolect	68		6.5	9.0
679½	358½	Mowlerbcon	459½	- 1½	1.9	21.8
249	205	Ponsar	240		4.2	20.7
2372	186	Scapa	185½	- ½	1.5	20.4
26	20	Sutcliffe Speak	20	- 1	2.9	17.7
862½	656	Takeda Chem	775½	- 17½	0.8	14.5
450	337	Wardle Storeys	341	+ 2	6.3	19.6
230	191	Wrthington Hdg	191		9.4	18.5
833	570	WrmWater R	703		3.0	16.6
483	345	Yorkr Chem	348	+ 2	3.0	15.8
334	258	Yule Catto	279	- 1	3.9	21.2

DISTRIBUTORS

127	105	ABI Ltd	109		4.8	
280	248	Acrt	280		2.9	16.1
575	350	Acrtn & Harvey	565		3.5	7.1
31	24	Alexanders	31		5.0	19.5
175	115	Applecrssd	115		6.3	20.3
6	3¼	Ass Br Eng	4½	- ¼	1.4	58.8
510	495	BOC Group	520		4.4	16.1
25½	17	Bodning Power	23½		5.6	
405	249	Brantbry Pic	368		3.1	10.7
48	28	Bryant A	36			
310	208	Bunzmic	307		4.8	18.7
31	15½	Bridgend Gpt	16		1.6	
198	76	Bid Fstngs	82		3.4	
71	56	Brown & Tpsn	68			
52	35	Burndytne	48		6.2	11.2
465	245	Caffyns	275	- 8	5.3	18.2
60	24½	Coates Pic	26		4.8	15.8
130	84	Central Mt	88		5.0	21.8
51	32½	Cook (DC)	37		3.8	11.5
348	201	Cowie	214		4.7	18.7
192½	127	Dag Hldgs	148		5.6	16.1
662	446	Desmarais El	559		1.4	16.6
628	423	Diplomat	423	+ 1	4.8	
389	265	Electrocomponents	373	+ 1	2.7	19.4
175	103	Esporta Fitness	153	+ 1	2.6	15.8
283	235	Elis & Everard	261	+ 1	3.6	19.3
234	191	Exprsprint	206		5.8	15.8
133	106	European Mtrs	115	- 3	4.9	12.8
539½	396	Evans Halshaw	400	- 2	4.4	12.6
656	490½	Farnell Elect	536	+ 3	1.9	22.0
78	50	Fds Inchcp	61		5.6	9.0
34	17½	Gardner	17		5.4	11.3
46	21	Glenchewton	21			23.2
90	69	Gowrings	72		3.6	21.8
78	55	Hallen Hldgs	74	- 2		57.8
181	122	Harris (Philip)	141		6.1	17.4
345½	266½	Hartys	274½		3.4	14.7
191	88	Helsinki Tech	95		8.2	10.0
138	110	ISA Ind	110	- 1	3.9	13.7
699	395	Inchcape	444	+ 1	4.2	14.8
68	35	Jacks (W)	58			13.4
184	146	Jnsn-Fir	161		3.1	18.5
573	366	Lex Service	407		5.5	16.8
262	162	Lookers	195		4.4	12.2
30	16½	Mdnd Gp	16½		1.9	
75	43	Meyer Intnl	75			
20	15	Mscaster	16		4.1	16.3
177	139	Bridport	157		3.2	
71	56	Br Aerospace'A'	63	- 4	2.6	38.0
44	31	TLS Range	32		3.4	14.9
295	215	Time Products	276	+ 1	4.8	15.9
251	141	Vardy (Reg)	151		3.3	22.8
335	247	Wholesale Figs	247		4.1	14.6
30½	14½	Wills Gp	14½		4.1	8.1
67½	46½	Wilsnsnt	66		1.2	22.2
69	40	Wyko	56		1.1	
96	61	Young (H)	91		4.4	13.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

202	148	Ashtead	167		6.0	16.0
380	199½	Anglogassist	333		1.5	36.9
61	48	Arrowcrft	49		4.6	10.2
988	773½	Bnsh Ind	950		2.3	37.0
401	373	BTR	396	+ 1½	3.5	15.1
570	352	BAT	453		5.5	10.2
91	49	Bibby (J)	66	- 2	3.0	10.7
571	44	Brierley Inv	42½		9.4	
39	10½	Cannon St	12	- ½		46
838	636½	Charter	789	+ 9	3.7	22.2
326	226½	Cookson	328	+ 4	3.4	21.5
405	217½	Dawsons	405		2.2	19.3
320	142	Hanson Cridlnd	145	+ 1	7.8	16.5
365½	240	Hutch Whamp	347½	+ 1½	2.3	17.6
710	409½	Jardine Matn	469½	+ 4½	3.0	11.8
283	235	Lilla & Evrard	261	+ 1	3.6	19.3
234	191	Lonrho	206		4.9	18.1
133	106	European Mtrs	115	- 3	4.9	12.8
539½	396	Evans Halshaw	400	- 2	4.4	12.6
656	490½	Farnell Elect	536	+ 3	1.9	22.0
78	50	Fds Inchcp	61		5.6	9.0
34	17½	Gardner	17		5.4	11.3
46	21	Glenchewton	21			23.2
90	69	Gowrings	72		3.6	21.8
78	55	Hallen Hldgs	74	- 2		57.8
181	122	Harris (Philip)	141		6.1	17.4
345½	266½	Hartys	274½		3.4	14.7
191	88	Helsinki Tech	95		8.2	10.0
138	110	ISA Ind	110	- 1	3.9	13.7
699	395	Inchcape	444	+ 1	4.2	14.8
68	35	Jacks (W)	58			13.4
184	146	Jnsn-Fir	161		3.1	18.5
573	366	Lex Service	407		5.5	16.8
262	162	Lookers	195		4.4	12.2
30	16½	Mdnd Gp	16½		1.9	
75	43	Meyer Intnl	75			
20	15	Mscaster	16		4.1	16.3
177	139	Bridport	157		3.2	
71	56	Br Aerospace'A'	63	- 4	2.6	38.0
44	31	TLS Range	32		3.4	14.9
295	215	Time Products	276	+ 1	4.8	15.9
251	141	Vardy (Reg)	151		3.3	22.8
335	247	Wholesale Figs	247		4.1	14.6
30½	14½	Wills Gp	14½		4.1	8.1
67½	46½	Wilsnsnt	66		1.2	22.2
69	40	Wyko	56		1.1	
96	61	Young (H)	91		4.4	13.6

ELECTRICITY

894½	610½	East Midlands	715	- 23	4.5	56.4
666	566	Eastern Elec	767	- 28	3.7	16.8
1062	819	Hydro Elec	1033	- 27	3.4	16.3
871	635	Manweb	780	- 5	3.8	9.3
648	547	Midlands Elec	757	- 8	4.2	11.5
520	404½	National Power	484½	- 17½	3.4	11.3
884	589	Northern Elec	863	+ 4	3.6	10.8
421	329	Nthrn Ireland	416	- 2	3.6	10.7
850	561	Norweb	764	- 16	3.8	10.1
602	449	PowerGen	512½	- 25½	3.3	11.1
477	307	Hydro-Elect	330	- 4	4.8	10.4
486	335	Scottish Power	341½	- 8½	3.8	10.7
453	398	Scottish	411	- 1	3.6	10.8
640	501	Sth Wales	580	- 9	4.7	10.0
824	551	Sth Western	764	- 10	3.8	10.1
937	546	Southern Elec	866	- 28	3.7	12.0
785	532	Yorkshire Elec	704	- 11	4.2	13.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

109	63	Accon Comp	97			
650	478	Admiral	637		7.3	19.5
198	163	Alba	198		3.2	16.3
250	136½	Amstrad	138½	- ½	2.3	
30	24	Anson	31			
71	56	Action	64½		1.3	17.3
281	118	Aztec	139		3.2	11.1
478	325	BICC	334		7.2	21.1
285	238	Beales Hamlin	251	+ 2	4.8	
16	7	Berkeley Bus	7½			
525	402	Black	430	+ 11	3.4	
380	280	Bowthorpe	280	+ 1	3.1	16.2
21½	14½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	18½		1.9	9.6
283	223	CML Micro	229		3.4	14.2
35½	21½	Chloride	32½		6.6	62.7
117	75	Capwscnic	105		1.4	
202	152½	Clay Elect	153		1.8	17.8
467	412	Critchley	462		2.3	19.3
388	269	Danka Bc Syst	304	- 4	0.7	22.3
586	400	Delta	465	- 1	3.9	20.3
560	400	Domino	556		1.9	29.9
78	63	Dowding Mlls	69		4.6	26.2
1535	1220	Druck	1466	- 3	0.9	27.3
3756½	2300	Electrocm 'B'	3187½	+ 12½	1.7	54.4
36	21	Emess	30½		2.0	
4048½	2737½	Enscon 'B'	3440½	- 37½	1.1	29.9
86	56	Eurocopy	64		3.5	16.9
451	343	Eurotherm	391		1.6	28.2
440	334½	Fenny Group	393		2.0	20.8
283	180	Fremad Sprt	196	- 2	2.2	19.3
56	34½	Forward Tech	45		2.2	8.7
353½	257½	GEC	275½	+ 2½	4.9	13.8
191	102	Gresham	102	- 3	2.9	
191	119	Grsebly	142		4.3	17.0
199	135	Hall Control	135		3.7	
385	325½	Harwood Appl-A	357	- 1	3.5	16.9
890	730	Kershaw (A)	890		3.4	11.1
166	38	Kode	58		6.6	
56	45	LPA Ind	45		4.4	8.1
328	256	MTL Inst	300		2.0	18.1
291	210	Marconi-Sn	269		2.0	20.3
46	31	Microvitec	35			17.5
494	185	Mitel	215	- 1		
148	108	Monarp Est	118	+ 1	3.3	
91	65	Pace Systemtcl	85		6.8	23.5
101	69	Pentos	85		5.6	15.0
118	80	Pepawtr	98		3.6	50.8
212	156	Pilkt	158	- 1	3.2	18.3
148	102	Portsmt T	102		1.3	
165	38	Quads	58		6.6	
56	45	RTR Ind	45		4.4	18.1
494	185	Rotork				

BR tempts the executive

BUSINESS people travelling between the North East and London can save 33 per cent by taking the train rather than the plane. A first-class day return Executive Ticket costs £140 from Newcastle to London, compared with the equivalent air fare of £216. Executive rail fares also include a meal voucher, car parking and London Underground tickets — extras worth a further £20.

Boston party

FLY transatlantic between January and March and qualify for a heavily discounted Virgin Atlantic fare. The Travel Warehouse is charging £195 return to Boston and £230 to Los Angeles. Neither price includes tax. Details: 071-414 8808.

Go, get set

A FREE Casio pocket television set worth more than £100 is being offered by Air UK when you fly to and from Stansted airport. The deal is restricted to full-fare passengers travelling between January 3 and February 28.

First class

DISCOUNTED off-peak first-class fares have been introduced by InterCity's Great Western division. Saver First fares provide 33 per cent savings for Monday-Friday journeys made between 9.30am and 3.35pm, or after 7pm.

Great Danes

DANISH airline Maersk Air charges a lower business-class fare between Gatwick and Copenhagen. Its £362 return fare saves 20 per cent on the normal £452 tariff.

Miles better

EXECUTIVE Club members booking business-class tickets with British Airways Express from London Gatwick to Antwerp, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Jersey or Rotterdam earn 500 Air Miles for every return flight taken before December 23. That is enough to qualify you for a free flight to Brussels, Paris or Rotterdam.

FARE DEALS

Lauda reports

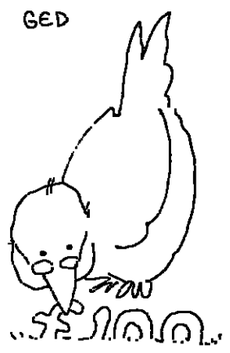
VIENNA-bound executives who tailor their itinerary to Lauda Air's four-times-a-week flight schedules from Gatwick pay £379 for a business-class return, compared with the normal fare of £484.

High Polish

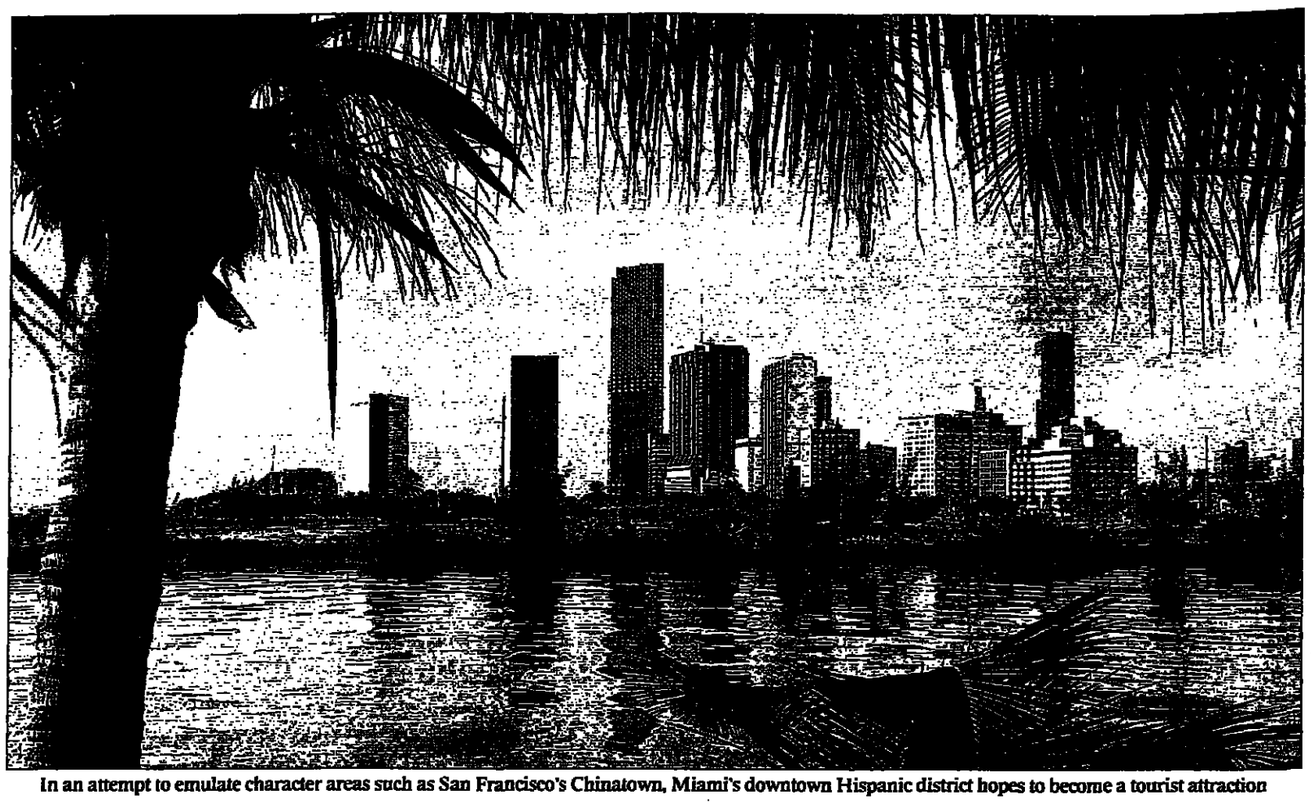
AUSTRIAN Airlines is making it easier for Britons to reach the Polish city of Krakow, thanks to a new four-times-a-week service via Vienna. A passenger leaving London at 7.35am can reach Krakow by 12.55pm, after a 55-minute transit in Vienna.

Early birds

SAS (Scandinavian Airlines System) has reintroduced its "EarlyBird" service between London and Gothenburg. Passengers taking the airline's 7.40am flight from Heathrow save £100 on the business-class fare if they return the same day.



Willie Newlands on Florida's bid to become the capital of Latin America



In an attempt to emulate character areas such as San Francisco's Chinatown, Miami's downtown Hispanic district hopes to become a tourist attraction

Miami breaks out of the vice

A meeting of statesmen from all over Latin America starting in Miami tomorrow will emphasise the city's growing ambition to become the capital of a prospering Hispanic New World.

The Summit of the Americas, which will be attended by President Clinton, is the first of its kind. According to city commissioner Willy Gort: "The commercial future for the United States is in Asia and South America. There are 25 million Hispanic people in the US and everyone recognises the need for us to work together with Latin America."

The appeal of ethnic tourism has gripped the city authorities. With a clear eye on San Francisco's Chinatown, which was voted top tourist destination in America by one national magazine, the Hispanics of downtown Miami are selling themselves as an alternative to the sea-and-sand culture of Miami Beach. Tourism is already an $8 billion (£5.3 billion) business in the city and surrounding Dade County, but the plan is to boost it even further.

For the British tourist, the Spanish atmosphere is familiar — like moving Benidorm or Palma to the other side of the Atlantic. But Miami is a much bigger and tougher city than anything on the Mediterranean, as Donald H. Warshaw, the city's chief of police, takes pains to emphasise. "Tourists should be advised not to leave their common sense at home," he said.

The television series *Miami Vice*, has encouraged people to focus on the city's violent image. "I travel in south-east Asia and when people learn who I am they say: 'Ah, *Miami Vice* — rat-tat-tat-tat!' and swing an imaginary machinegun around the room," Mr Warshaw said. "I don't know whether I'll ever resolve in my mind whether we did the right thing by supporting that show. But the beauty of the place is the excitement. As President Clinton says, this is the international prototype city."

Tourist drivers who wander off Highway 95 and find themselves in Liberty City or Overtown are likely to think that the future is dangerous and bleak, but Mr Warshaw said: "The areas where most tourists go are where I go with my family. I live in the suburbs and I walk the dog and I don't feel any more threatened than in any other city."

More than 11 million holidaymakers visit Miami every year, more than the entire British overseas package tourist business. Mr Warshaw is sure that new efforts to protect them, including a tourist police force paid for out of airport revenue, will make the city safer.

THE CITY BRITONS FEAR TO VISIT

BRITISH holidaymakers are more frightened of travelling to Florida than to Peru, South America, China and Turkey, *Marianne Curphey* writes.

Many people are reluctant to visit the state — still Britain's most popular long-haul destination — after a series of attacks on tourists, according to a survey by Home and Overseas, the UK's largest travel insurer. However, the survey revealed that Florida is enjoying a slight revival of fortunes.

A total of 41 per cent of those questioned said they would be afraid of travelling there, compared with 50 per cent last year.

Vietnam and India — fast-growing tourist destinations — are the most feared places to visit, with 59 per cent of people saying they would be afraid of going to either country.

Soaring future in Hong Kong

A HUGE vote of confidence in the future of Hong Kong as a travel destination has been given by the opening by the Duke and Duchess of Kent last week of a 30-storey tower at the Peninsula Hotel.

The Peninsula, which is owned by the local Kadoorie family and was first opened in 1928, is one of the authentic grand hotels of the Orient — Hong Kong's answer to the Raffles in Singapore.

Despite its twin helipads, a Philippe Stark restaurant complex, Romanesque swimming pool on the eighth floor and high-tech gadgetry it still has something of an old colonial feel, with a string quartet playing for afternoon tea in the lobby. It still serves traditional crustless cucumber sandwiches and scones with cream.

Recently it has been challenged by a surge of hotel building on Hong Kong Island across the water and also by two buildings on the Kowloon side.

ONE is the cultural centre, a sort of Hong Kong South Bank, which blocked the Peninsula's former glorious harbour view; the other is the Regent Hotel, a few hundred yards away. An important point of the new Peninsula construction is that it restores the hotel's panorama.

Although building work is continuing on a health centre and sun-deck, Peninsula standards still prevail — including the hotel's own green Rolls-Royces.

Room rates begin at £202 a night, plus 10 per cent service and 5 per cent government tax. Reservations: 0800 181 123.

British Airways flies to Hong Kong twice a day, seven days a week, from Heathrow. APEX fares start at £621 for a minimum stay of seven days and a maximum of three months. A fully-flexible Club World ticket costs £2,001 return. Reservations: 0345 222111.

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Booked on BA — flying on Brymon?

MARIANNE CURPHEY

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

The gradual takeover of small carriers by our largest airline could have worrying implications for the industry and passengers

Bring British Airways down to earth



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Quietly, without disturbing the sleeping civil aviation watchdogs, British Airways has managed to steal away with almost all Britain's domestic airline industry.

The little carriers, whose freedom to fly where and when they want at whatever price brought fares down and sent service standards up, are now flying in British Airways colours, with cabin crew dressed in British Airways uniforms serving British Airways meals.

Not only that, but they are paying the airline for the privilege of being swallowed up in its latest scheme — franchising.

It is a subtle and insidious development which appears to have caught both the Civil Aviation Authority and the Office of Fair Trading napping. Neither has so far indicated any willingness to investigate the implications for air passengers both in terms of competition and of domestic air fares. And, perhaps emboldened by their failure to react, and by silence from Europe's legislators, BA has now struck similar deals with the French internal airline TAT and Gibraltar-based GB Airways, in both of which it already holds a 49 per cent stake.

Where will it all end? Does it matter if BA becomes the dominant domestic and perhaps European regional carrier? Or even the only one?

On the face of it franchising can only produce winners. Small regional airlines have traditionally struggled to make money. If British Airways uses its buying power to get goods and services for them, lends them the BA name and its worldwide reservations and marketing organisation, everybody apparently benefits.

In return, BA asks to paint the small company's aircraft in its colours, operates it under a BA flight number, ensures service standards remain consistent and prevents any two franchisees from competing head to head.

It is an argument which has already won over CityFlyer Express, Maersk (UK), Loganair, Brymon and Manx. Only Air UK — partly owned by KLM — and Jersey European, whose chairman, Jack Walker, also owns Blackburn Rovers football club, have so far resisted the blandishments of BA.

In the last year the franchise operation earned BA £40 million, plus a further £20 million in fees paid by those now sheltering under its umbrella. The number of passengers flying from the regions and linking up with BA international flights has doubled and by early next year, when the Manx deal is finally in place, BA will have forged franchise deals with five small airlines, giving them access to 55 aeroplanes, 2.8 million passengers and 118 routes.

Even BA's most feared and respected critic and competitor, Sir Michael Bishop, has been wooed by the chance of making his subsidiaries Loganair and Manx part of the BA franchise operation.

Britain led the way in liberalising European air transport, with British transport ministers putting pressure on their European counterparts to allow competition. It was, they argued, the only way of lowering air fares. That was largely before British Caledonian, Dan-Air and Air Europe disappeared. Now, because of franchising, the competition is even more limited.

It was an idea which worked well in the United States, where a small carrier could switch allegiance from American to Delta or from USAir to United if it was dissatisifed. In Britain there is no such opportunity.

As BA looks after most of its affairs, the partner company has few business secrets. If it steps out of line in any way, BA can walk away from the deal, leaving it to certain instant financial death.

Passengers are encouraged to believe that they are flying on British Airways, with the smaller name and logo deliberately made inconspicuous. Yet legally the small company is the carrier. Any dispute would have to be taken up with Manx, or Loganair, with Brymon or with CityFlyer Express. The bottomless coffers of BA itself are closed to any complainant. What would happen in the case of an accident? Would a passenger receive less compensation?

Legal advice differs. What is needed, surely, is a full and open inquiry into the effect of a development that may or may not prove sinister but with which we have all so far quietly acquiesced. If ever the CAA, the OFT or even the Transport Department had a clear reason to act it is now — before we lose most of our once-proud and competitive airline industry.

Booked on BA — flying on Brymon?

A THIRD of all passengers end up travelling with an airline they would rather avoid, because travel agents withhold information, claims the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA).

The trend for code-sharing — which enables airlines to book passengers on each others' flights — means some travellers only discover at the departure gate that they are to fly with a different airline.

Random checks in the US have shown 30 per cent of all passengers on international flights are not given full details about the carrier by their travel agents.

The practice of code-sharing enables passengers to travel with one boarding pass and have luggage checked straight through several connections. It involves two airlines linking flights under one name and flight code, so they appear to offer a through service between two points.

Customers benefit from discounted through fares, frequent-flyer benefits and more protection if the connecting flight is missed.

Passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight, for example, might find they are actually on a plane owned by Aeroflot, Malev-Hungarian or Varig Brazilian. Air Canada shares codes with British Midland, LOT Polish Airlines, Czechoslovak Airlines, Swissair, Korean Air, Iberia and others.

BRITISH AIRWAYS has code-sharing agreements with USAir and franchising arrangements which include partnerships with CityFlyer Express, Mearsk Air, Loganair, Manx, and Brymon.

While IAPA is happy about the reciprocal arrangements between major carriers, it warns that competitive pressure is leading some airlines into partnerships with less well-established carriers, and is worried about possibly "unacceptible safety standards".

Smaller carriers tend not to rate as highly on IAPA's ten-year survey of airline safety as Delta or BA, either because they have suffered a number of accidents with fatalities, or because they have made too few flights to be comparable.

It is already routine practice for business travellers to avoid taking domestic flights within Eastern Europe. Some frequent-flyers travelling from Hong Kong to Peking or Shanghai will travel at great cost via Tokyo to ensure they are on a Western airline.

David Stempler of the IAPA says: "We are calling for stricter enforcement of existing regulations and the introduction of rules to ensure that consumers are not misled."

Under European Commission law, customers are supposed to be told the identity of all carriers in code-sharing deals.

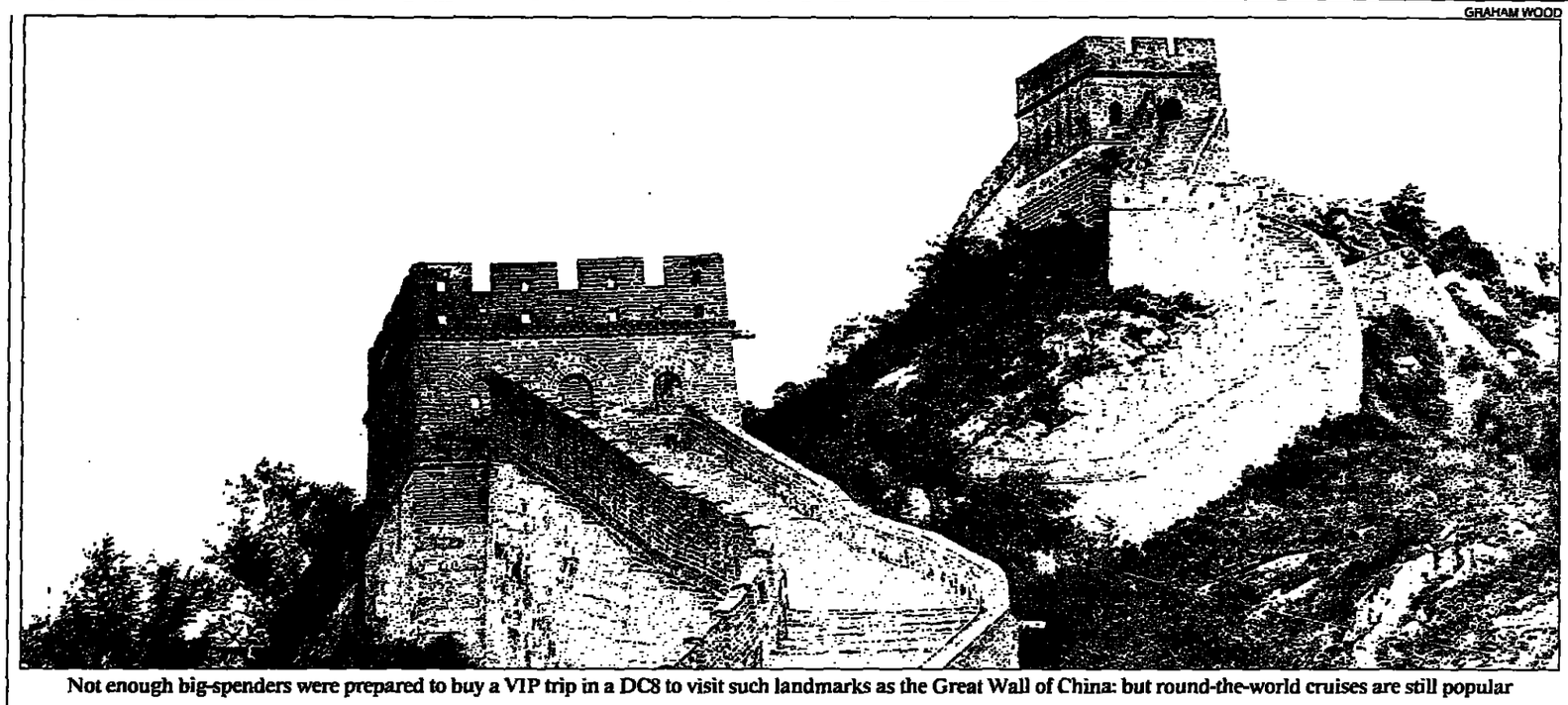
Delta's Todd Clay says the airline has introduced measures to ensure passengers know they are flying with a code-sharing partner. "A team from Delta check out the passenger service, safety, training and maintenance before we go into any agreement with a partner," he says, "and this continues on a regular basis."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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GRAHAM WOOD



Not enough big-spenders were prepared to buy a VIP trip in a DC8 to visit such landmarks as the Great Wall of China: but round-the-world cruises are still popular

Luxury trip finds few buyers

A round-the-world grand tour has been abandoned by Thomas Cook because travellers are balking at the cost, says **David Churchill**

Thomas Cook this week scrapped its luxury round-the-world grand tour planned for next spring because of a lack of demand from potential globetrotters willing to pay £16,000 or more for the 35-day trip to 10 countries.

Up to 80 high-spending travellers would have flown in a specially converted Imperial Airlines DC8 and visited such landmarks as the Great Wall of China, the Pyramids and the Taj Mahal in VIP luxury.

But Thomas Cook said yesterday that it was "disappointed" at the level of response for the venture, which would have recreated the 1991 round-the-world tour that celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Simon Laxton, Thomas Cook's general manager for holidays, commented that "although there was a high level of early interest, this unfortunately did not lead to our achieving the level of bookings we required to make the trip viable." He claimed, however, that bookings for Thomas Cook's long-haul holidays in general "are 50 per cent up on last year's".

Though Thomas Cook has had trouble attracting wealthy travellers willing to pay £16,000 a head, there is no shortage of globetrotters willing to pay more than twice that for a round-the-world cruise on P & O's Canberra and Sea Princess cruise ships next month. Both liners are embarking on 91-day voyages that span the world, and according to David Dingle, the marketing director of P & O Cruises, only limited places are left.

"There has been a late rush of people booking the whole voyage or part of it," he adds. "I never cease to be amazed by the number of people who can leave it so late to book a three-month cruise, but that is the nature of the market now."

On the Canberra round-the-world cruise, prices start at £5,999 and top fare is £35,460. On the Sea Princess, the cruises cost between £11,599 and £33,210. (Details: 071-800 2222.

Most round-the-world travellers do not travel in such luxury. Instead, independent travellers — known as "backpackers" — seek the lowest fares from airlines for tickets that take them either east or westwards to Australia or the Far East and back.

Gillian Smith, marketing manager for STA Travel, says that round-the-world fares have fallen significantly in recent years as more airlines are willing to discount fares to attract the under-26 market. "The best advice is to decide how much you can afford to spend, and then discuss it with your travel agent," she says. "It is important to have as flexible a ticket as possible because itineraries invariably change."

STA Travel, one of the biggest agents in this market niche, also provides an international helpline for stranded round-the-world travellers, and has more than 100 offices world wide. "Travellers can even call and reverse the charges," adds Miss Smith. The best offer from STA Travel is a return London-Seoul ticket via Los Angeles and New York for £663. And a London-Australia route via Buenos Aires costs from £1,107. (Details: 071-937 9962) Lunn Poly also has an Ausbound London-Sydney via Bangkok and Hong Kong return fare for £1,012. A more limited return itinerary from Jetabout to Melbourne, Fiji, and Los Angeles costs £806.

The Going Places travel agency's current best offer is £829 for a round-the-world return air journey London-Bangkok-Sydney-Los Angeles.

Round The World Air Fares by British Airways work out more costly than other deals. Its standard Round The World Air Fare has unlimited stopovers but travel must be in the one direction. For travel in the northern hemisphere only, the cost starts at £1,608, and a journey including Australia starts at £1,930.

Higher charges for visas

Thousands of British business people are facing new charges for foreign visas. About half of the 137 countries with diplomatic representation in the United Kingdom do not demand visas for entry. But a growing number of nations now do — and most of them charge for the privilege.

The latest embassy to demand payment for the issuing of visas is the United States. Before October, visas were issued free. But last month more than 4,000 Britons had to pay £13.75 to obtain one, and in a full year around 55,000 will be charged. The charges do not, however, apply to the 2.4 million tourists visiting America annually.

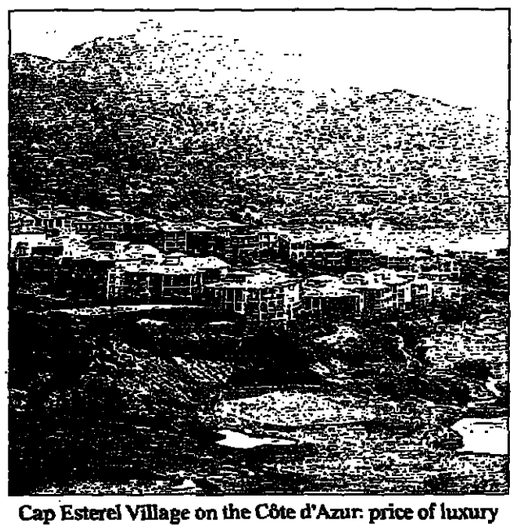
The US embassy says it needs to charge to cover the increased use of high technology equipment being used both to issue and read visas. It will no longer issue indefinite visas; and anyone holding a B1 or B2 visa issued more than ten years ago will now have to apply for a new one.

According to Worldwide Visas, based in London, the average charge for a visa is £20. Countries such as Australia charge nothing while Russia charges up to £100 for a "multiple entry" visa. A Brazil visa costs £8. Bangladesh charges £20 and China £25. Taiwan has just increased its charges from £12.50 to £25.

"Business people have to pay through their noses for some countries' visas" according to *Business Traveller* magazine. "Not only are governments raising their standard visa-issuing charges but some charge certain nationals higher fees, either because the governments in question don't enjoy the best of diplomatic relations or because the applicant's passport happens to be unusual".

HARVEY ELLIOTT

One step up from the camp site



Cap Esterel Village on the Côte d'Azur: price of luxury

BRITAIN'S biggest camping operator is trying to persuade families to take summer holidays in self-catering seaside apartments in France.

Eurocamp believes the camping and mobile-home market to France — currently 600,000 people a year — is reaching saturation point. It wants to hold on to families with bored teenagers, but active "oldies" and childless couples are also targets.

The camping and mobile-home market dipped in 1993, but has recovered by 20 per cent this year, to record levels.

EuroVillages features 20 holiday villages scattered around the French coast. "The type of person we will attract is someone who likes France by is not a pure Francophile," says general manager, Conrad Morris.

"It is probably for older children because of the sports, but it is also for families looking for facilities such as a swimming pool, children's club and a safe environment."

Holidaymakers on the site are 80 per cent French, followed by the Germans, Belgians and the Dutch. Only 15,000 Britons took such a holiday this year, estimates Eurocamp. It is looking to double the market in 1995.

The largest of the sites on offer is Cap Esterel, five miles from St Raphael on the French Riviera, with 1,400 apartments. The site has a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, five pools open in the summer, archery and volleyball. Mountain biking and trekking are also available, and the beach is a mile away.

It's not Butlins, but it's not Club Med either. The nearest comparison is a small-scale version of continental resorts such as La Manga in Spain, or Vilamoura or Quinta do Lago in the Algarve.

And it isn't cheap. Prices reach £2,308 for a two-week, peak summer self-drive holiday staying in an apartment described as being for six or seven. But there is one tiny double room, with two bunks and three sofa beds in the living area.

Studios for four or five at Cap Esterel start at £362 until April. The cheapest from this programme is a studio for two at £232 in the Vendee in September or October.

And there are extras. Covered car parking at Esterel costs £50 for two weeks, and there are charges for archery, tennis and even sun-loungers.

But Eurocamp say the average price for a two-week holiday in the summer is £1,600, compared to £1,400 for a mobile home.

"Let's face it, not everybody wants to go camping, and people grow out of it," says Eurocamp's managing director, Richard Atkinson. "Children get too old or there are people who want something with a little bit more comfort."

Dennis Fabri, the marketing director of the French Government's tourist office in London, adds: "Camping was chic. You saw France, but with the security of other British families.

"Then people moved to mobile homes. The next stage is this type of self-catering. It will be for people who want to go to France but who don't want to think too much."

STEVE KEENAN

TRAVELOGS

Daytrip crazy

BRITTANY Ferries says more than 26 million Britons will visit France this year, travelling in four and a half million cars, a 13 per cent rise on 1993.

Most of the growth resulted from 11 million "daytrippers", many of whom crossed to France to pick up cheap drink. Brittany Ferries, snootily maintains that only 8 per cent of its "up-market" passengers were daytrippers and that those who returned to England the same day had been seeking a fine French lunch rather than cut-price lager.

Pass out

THE UK Passport Agency advises anyone travelling to Spain after October 1995 to apply for a ten-year passport now if they do not have one. From October 1, 1995, Spain will not accept the British Visitor Passport.

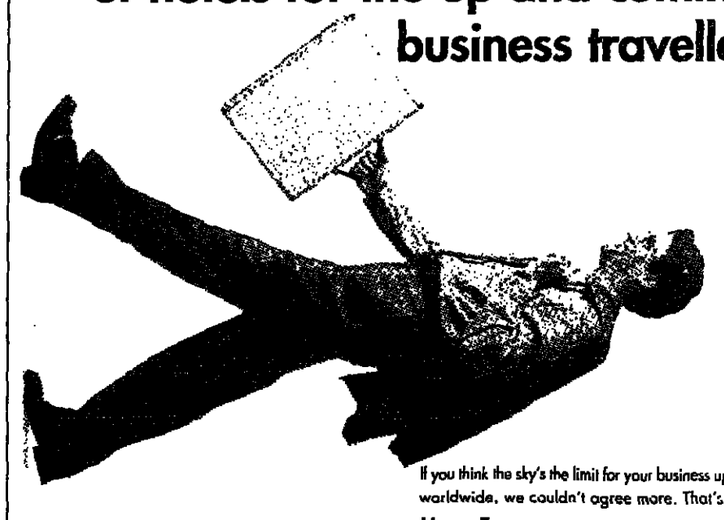
Falklands link

AERO Vias DAP has radical plans to change the future of tourism in the Falklands, which still depend largely on the RAF for air links. The Chilean airline is having discussions with British Aerospace about leasing a BAe 146 able to carry cargo and up to 100 passengers.

Bible-bashing

A EUROPE-wide survey of business travel by OAG, the travel guide publishers, finds that 65 per cent of travellers take shampoo from their rooms, 62 per cent remove soap, 60 per cent walk off with pens and 33 per cent pinch books and magazines, including the Gideon Bible.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Size counts, says the ASB

Ken Wild examines the background to radical new proposals from the accounting standards working party



Ken Wild says the ASB is putting effort into the right issue

There would seem to be general recognition that the Accounting Standards Board is making a positive contribution to financial reporting. As with any standard-setting body some of its rules will prove unpopular individually. But most accountants accept it is generally heading in the right direction. Its programme is set after widespread consultation. It has already covered such key issues as off-balance sheet finance, the treatment of complex capital instruments and fair values in acquisitions. On its agenda it has, among other projects, the question of derivatives. This is clearly an issue of the Nineties and ideally suited to consideration by the ASB.

How much of this is of interest and relevance to the average small company? More than 90 per cent of UK companies meet the Companies Act definition of small (two out of three of turnover below £2.8 million, assets below £1.4 million and not more than 50 employees). With a few exceptions, accounting standards automatically apply to all companies irrespective of size. How many of these recent standards are of relevance or interest to this majority of companies? Very few if any!

This is not to say the ASB is wrong. It is not. It is putting its effort where it should, issues relevant to public-interest companies — mainly quoted and, consequently, involving public money. These are large with complex financing arrangements and transactions. Standard rules are needed to summarise and aggregate these transactions. If a transaction is simple, it probably does not need to be covered by a sophisticated rule, if common, its accounting is probably well established. Why should the ASB waste time on the simple and common?

This mismatch between the majority of companies and accounting standards has been recognised. Some time ago, the ASB asked the accountancy bodies to look fully into it and make recommendations for criteria that could be adopted to exempt companies from standards on grounds of size or public interest. The first thoughts of that working party were issued as a discussion document on 22 November.

The proposals are radical. The working party says the complex rules that are now a necessary part of reporting by complex companies may often not be the best way of reporting for simpler ones. Accounts are meant to communicate. For a less than complex concern, complex rules, while appropriate in other circumstances, may get in the way of the communication process. If the company is simple, the accounts should be kept simple.

On this logic, the working party recommends future accounting standards should generally not apply to small companies. The only exception would be where a specific standard indicates it is particularly relevant to small companies and should be applied — an exact reversal of today.

Why pick "small" companies? Why not limit standards to public-interest concerns, such as listed companies, or "complex" concerns. The use of size as the test is purely pragmatic. Size tests are clear cut and easy to apply: other tests tend not to be. In choosing the size test, that of "small" as defined in the Companies Act, the working party has sought to avoid a proliferation of different tests for different purposes.

Existing standards have been considered. As suggested above, many recent standards, whether from the ASB or those issued in the closing days of the ASC, its predecessor, dealt with complex transactions. The early standards that did deal with some of the more common issues, have now been incorporated, at least in essential principles, in Company Law. Consequently, it is proposed small companies be made exempt from all but five existing standards and all but one of the abstracts from the urgent issues task force.

This is not yet all decided. It is just a discussion paper and Even if the proposals meet universal acclaim, they would need to be passed to the ASB.

The author is chairman of the CLAB working party on "Big Gaap/Little Gaap"

Turning the spotlight on stars and villains

THEY may have reached it by a curious route, but the Auditing Practices Board (APB) has produced a proposal that would satisfy the arguments of the profession's arch-critic, Austin Mitchell, MP. He has argued that the profession will stand charged of self-seeking rather than self-regulation until it pillories a partner of a large firm for wrongdoing. Only then would the public see that the comfortable support network was capable of chucking out its members.

Yesterday, the APB published *The Audit Agenda*, a green paper on the changes it wants in auditing. It comes in the wake of the 1992 McFarlane report, which floated ideas for the future. This report is the result of the responses to McFarlane. One of its key points is to have audit reports signed not, as they are now, by the name of the firm. The APB wants audit reports signed by the partner in charge of the audit. The anonymity of the person who has taken the final decisions will be blown away. The result will make stars of some and villains of others.

And this is where Mr Mitchell's point comes in. As Ian Percy, who headed the task force that produced the APB report said: "If someone is consistently signing off reports which the Review Panel is then calling in and criticising, then the process would expose him."

Attention would be drawn more to the individual who appears to be persistently failing in judgment, and action would be taken. Mr Mitchell would be gleeful.



ROBERT BRUCE

The thinking behind this is twofold. First, as the reports says: "We believe that such a person would be in a similar position to the directors who, as required by law, sign the balance sheet on behalf of the board of directors." But the second point catches a tide within the profession. People are realising that the response to the growth in regulation has been a stifling of individual responsibility and judgment.

As Mr Percy puts it: "We have a lot of form-fillers relying on technical departments to express the firm's view." The pendulum is now swinging back. People have realised that pushing responsibility down the hierarchy rather than shoving the review procedure upwards does more for the quality of the work and the motivation of staff. Under the proposed change, the individual auditor would not only come to a view that he or she is happy to be committed to, but they would also have to be comfortable about answering questions about it at the annual meeting.

It will be interesting to see how enthusiastically these reforms are taken up. Auditors do not like change. We can expect this unease to be translated into cries that it would be unfair to the audit team to have one individual sign the accounts. But that would be to miss the point. The report is all about bringing the old-style auditor to the fore. "Someone," as the report says, "respected for objectivity, robustness, scepticism, fairness and above all integrity and broad business knowledge."

The report is all for stripping away the growth in audit checking. This principally has come about through a need to cover oneself in a time of spiralling litigation threats. But, as the report points out, industry has gone in the other direction. "Industry has realised that quality control is not about incessant checks but about improved education and training, total quality management and customer satisfaction and service," it says.

The report also grapples with one of the central points of the McFarlane report. That made great play about who "the client" really was and warned of the problems created by the finance director being the perceived client while the shareholders were the actual statutory client.

This is now tidied up. "Auditors of companies are, effectively," says the report, "appointed by those on whose account to shareholders they are to report and have no clear lines of communication to the shareholders; instead, they find themselves on a 'half-built bridge' between directors and shareholders."

The report then toys with the idea of a City panel that would appoint auditors on behalf of the shareholders. But reality prevails and it proposes that the audit committee do the job. The audit committee, it says, should be "acting as a proxy for shareholders in matters concerning the audit".

Mr Percy said the APB has voted unanimously for all these reforms. After consultations, it expects to have them in force from December 1996. Expect an uphill task.

Last Thursday's accountancy page featured a survey, *The Usefulness of Management Letters*, which was the work of three accountancy academics from Essex University, and not Exeter University as stated. We apologise for the error.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A brush with the ethics police

THE clammy hand of the ethics police has claimed another victim. For the past three years, Stephens & Co, the firm based in Hertfordshire founded by Steve Pipe, has traded under the slogan "chartered accountants by name not by nature". Pipe reckoned this was logical, as much of his work is to do with marketing and consultancy. But the English ICA thought otherwise. Surely it could be construed as implying shortcomings in other accountants, came the argument. So Pipe has had to change. And on the ground that he keeps winning awards, such as Hertfordshire Business Personality of the Year, he has changed it to "Hertfordshire's award-winning accountants". Perhaps the ethics boys will give him a gong.

Right candidate?

RUMOURS are spreading like wildfire through the English ICA in the wake of the move by Sir Bryan Carsberg from the Office of Fair Trading to the International Accounting Standards Committee as secretary-general. Surely, the rumour runs, David Cairns, the outgoing secretary-general, would make an excellent chief executive at the institute.

Party time

LAST Monday was the 25th anniversary of the first issue of *Accountancy Age*. And the event was celebrated in exuberant and occasionally tuneful style with a party for past and present *Age* journalists at Butchers' Hall. Sponsored and funded by Mazars, the enterprising French accountancy firm, the party also featured a presentation by the Scots ICA to the paper of a silver quaich to mark the anniversary. It was pressed into immediate service.

Double booking

THIS week's eagerly-awaited English ICA council meeting was thrown into disarray by one of its members. The Auditing Practices Board chose the same time to launch its report on *The Audit Agenda*. The board's chairman is, of course, Ian Plaistowe, past-president of the institute and a council member himself. "You would have thought he'd have known when the meeting was," an institute spokesman, said plaintively.

ROBERT BRUCE

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EXHIBITIONS page 38
Photographs of street life by some of the most famous names in the business

ARTS

THEATRE page 39
A generous gift of A Christmas Carol comes from the Royal Shakespeare Company



CINEMA: Schwarzenegger becomes a mother; MGM produces some skeletons from its closet; a likeable British film

Arnold's lot is a nappy one

Termination of the pregnancy might almost have been the best course of action, says **Geoff Brown**

Arnold Schwarzenegger has always seemed not of this earth: more sculpture, robot or action toy than normal human being. So the news that this man has defied science and become pregnant may not come as a total surprise.

As Dr Alex Hesse, a dour research scientist with granny specs, he complains in **Junior** about morning sickness, tender nipples, and having "nothing to wear" for a social event. Once his belly has expanded to the shape of the Royal Albert Hall, he hides out in drag in a maternity centre, shrouded in pink, with a pearl necklace, a curly blond wig, and a new identity as an East German woman athlete ruined by anabolic steroids.

To make matters merrier, the fertilised egg he is carrying to term hails from the womb of Emma Thompson, a physically clumsy British researcher who rushes about with her hair in a pony-tail and her heart in a knot. Playing father to Schwarzenegger's mother, however, unloosens her ties: everyone, even Danny DeVito, Arnie's cynical sidekick and gynaecologist (see interview, below), emerges from the birthing experience more in touch with their feelings.

Is all this funny? Some people think so, though the charms of Ivan Reitman's latest comedy ebbed for me in the very first minutes when a baby performed a natural function over Schwarzenegger's shoes. It is simple enough to score easy laughs when you subject Hollywood's biggest masculine star to female pains and pleasures; far harder, though, to treat the matter with imagination and maturity, and this Reitman fails to do.

Schwarzenegger, who worked with Reitman on *Twins* and *Kindergarten Cop*, carries the script's burden with a light enough hand. Yet he cannot create comic miracles from juvenile jokes: his drag routine is particularly cruel.

As for Emma Thompson, the film represents her first major venture outside the home comforts of Kenneth Branagh or Merchant Ivory; but the gawky British eccentric she plays seems more suited to a quick television sketch than a long-winded movie. Starry-eyed American critics regard her as Katharine Hepburn and Carole Lombard rolled into one. She is not: she is Emma Thompson, and without careful treatment she can become a pain in the neck.

Care is not Reitman's forte: this is the man who made the lolloping *Ghostbuster* movies and the empty-headed *Legal Eagles*, alongside the more thoughtful *Dave*. In *Junior* he reverts to type, stretching thin material to breaking point. The crowds will still come, for curiosity's sake; whether they have a good time depends on the strength of their sense of humour.

"It was a time before television and VCRs," proclaims the commentary in **That's Entertainment! III**, a belated addition to the two compendia of MGM musical clips made in the mid-1970s.

Ah, that must be the Stone Age, then? In fact it was the 1940s and 1950s, when the MGM lion's roar introduced musicals bursting with garish escapism, vibrant songs, swirling choreography, and all the hues of the Technicolor paintbox. Judy Garland's singing tore at the heart. Gene Kelly danced round that lamp-post in the rain. And Esther Williams swam in dotty aquatic follies.

The era now comes wrapped in nostalgia, and the current film, showing throughout December at the National Film Theatre as part of a series of MGM musicals, does little to tear off the decoration. Lena Horne aside, the stars who play host to the mountain of clips recall none but the rosiest memories, and every name dropped comes prefaced with "incomparable" or "legendary".

The talent employed at MGM was certainly prodigious. The uses to which the talent was put is another matter. The opening clip, "Here Come the Girls" from the 1946 *Ziegfeld Follies*, is a pink, vulgar nightmare. While a few classics like *The Band Wagon* get their due, many selections only highlight the skeletons in MGM's closet. Take the silly routine from *The Kissing Bandit*, known among buffs as the studio's worst musical; or "March of the Doagies", a frightful production number with Judy Garland, understandably cut from *The Harvey Girls*.

The inclusion of discarded sequences makes the film essential for MGM devotees; and Garland fans get their just desserts with "Mr Monotony", an electrifying number cut from *Easter Parade*. But even here there is room for complaint: editors Bud Friedgen and Michael J. Sheridan suffer from itchy fingers and cannot leave even rare material alone. They cut recklessly.

Aside from the clips, film fans will be keen to discover how the veteran stars who play host are faring. Gene Kelly appears game but frail; Mickey Rooney wears an oatmeal suit and looks like a balloon; while June Allyson has clearly kept the beauticians busy.

The Punk and the Princess marks the surprise return of a younger old-timer, the pop singer turned movie maverick Mike Sarne, last sighted spattered with critical abuse following the release of *Myra Breckinridge* in 1970. The world has grown older in the years in between, though Sarne is still tied to his past: "Come Outside", his 1961 hit single, can be heard in the film on a pub jukebox, while a fellow teenage idol, Jess Conrad, appears as the heroine's father, a wealthy American with fond hippy memories.

Sarne's subject is youth, too. This gauche, inconsistent but endearing film transposes the story of Romeo and Juliet to today's disaffected London drifters. Aside from his director of photography, Sarne's crew are film-school graduates under 25; and his leading actors, Charlie Creed-Miles and Vanessa Hadaway, make up in freshness whatever they lack in refined technique.

Not that the film (previously called *The Punk*) has all its fingers on the modern pulse. The story's origins lie in a school essay written in the late 1970s by a 14-year-old, Gideon Sams; and its time period remains in limbo. Sarne's free-wheeling camera whisks us through a dream world of amiable punks, nouveau riche idlers, fringe theatre hopefuls and uncomprehending adults. There is blood, violence and death; yet an aura of optimism and the fire of young love surround this Romeo in tartan trousers and his Juliet, a poor little rich girl in Notting Hill.

Clearly made on a modest budget, Sarne's film has enough spirit to vault over any awkward spots. So what if your eyes blink in disbelief at times? You keep watching the screen, and you emerge feeling warmed. Not every new British film shows such signs of life.

"I may be getting older, but I don't understand these kids any more," moans the Harlem high school's basketball coach in **Above the Rim**. I know the problem: possibly a third of the fast, slangy dialogue sailed past my ears. Rap music pounds on the soundtrack, while the camera grows dizzy following the ball; for all that, Jeff Pollack's film is one long predictable yawn.

Junior
Empire, PG, 110 mins
Schwarzenegger gets pregnant

That's Entertainment! III
National Film Theatre, U, 113 mins
Erratic dip into MGM's musical past

The Punk and the Princess
MGM Haymarket, 18, 92 mins
Engaging updating of Romeo and Juliet

Above the Rim
MGM Haymarket, 15, 97 mins
Cliché-riddled basketball movie



UNIVERSAL

Thompson, Schwarzenegger and small research product: one floundering in the wrong movie, one struggling to change sex, the third irreproachable

How DeVito got big in Hollywood

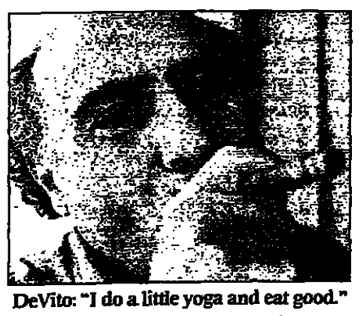
Joe Joseph on the actor, director, producer – and gynaecologist in *Junior*

About the only Hollywood pie Danny DeVito hasn't got his finger into is the Jane Fonda-Cindy Crawford celebrity keep-fit video market. "I used to do the bike and the Stairmaster and everything. But I don't anymore. I do a little yoga, eat good, and smoke cigars."

This wholesomely unorthodox diet — at least for Hollywood, where slenderness is next to godliness — may be the wellspring of DeVito's unlikely screen success. He looks happy-go-lucky, but is always busy cooking up new projects. And like Alec Guinness or Alan Bates, DeVito is so versatile that he is among America's finest screen actors.

- From the moment he got his big break in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, DeVito has appeared in a fleet of films, often as an endearing scumbag. Many of these movies were memorable. Others would have been less memorable without his presence.
- As Louie DePalma, the curmudgeonly dispatcher in the TV series *Taxi*, DeVito earned so many Emmys and Golden Globe awards that he need never buy another doorstop.
- When it came to casting the Penguin in *Batman Returns*, for instance, the 4ft 11in high DeVito *was* the shortlist. And when director Ivan Reitman was wondering whom to hire as the gynaecologist-cum-surrogate-husband to companion a pregnant Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Junior*, he didn't look further than DeVito.

Reitman had oiled the Schwarzenegger-DeVito partnership in his film *Twins*. It was Reitman, with his knack for coaxing the best out of comedy actors, like John Belushi, Bill Murray and John Candy, who turned Schwarzenegger from beefcake to cheesecake: "I think Arnie did some *unintentional* comedy before," says Reitman, who also directed Schwarzenegger in *Kindergarten Cop*, "but *Twins* was his first intentional comedy." DeVito, on the other hand, arrived on Reitman's set with comedy batteries factory-fitted: "He has an enormous range," Reitman swoons. "As an actor I don't think there's anyone better."



DeVito: "I do a little yoga and eat good."

There's more: DeVito has also proved himself a talented director, praised not only by his own agent but by his rivals: he directed himself and Jack Nicholson in *Hoffa*, he directed and co-starred in *War of the Roses*, and directed himself and Billy Crystal in *Throw Momma From The Train*.

Any more? Yup. DeVito is a powerhouse producer, too. His production company, Jersey Films, was the executive producer of Quentin Tarantino's cult hit *Pulp Fiction*, and has three movies going ahead next year: John Travolta stars in one; the second has Rhea Perlman — Carla from *Cheers* and also DeVito's wife, and mother of his three young children; and the third features Keanu Reeves.

Thirty years ago, casting directors used to brush off DeVito with the snub that "nobody wants a 5ft character actor". But there is more than one way to get big in Hollywood. Has DeVito enjoyed turning the tables? Does a cow moo?

"It's fun to be in this business," he says. "There are wonderful people in it. It's great to jump out of bed in the morning and want to get on with your work."

But didn't he occasionally feel like advising Reitman how to shoot a scene in *Junior*? Apparently not. "I feel good about acting. I enjoy it very much. And I love directing movies. But it's very important for everyone to do their job on a movie. It's very difficult directing and you have to give the director every ounce of your support."

So fame must be the downside, right? Well, when photographers bother the kids in the park, it's a little scary, but "other than that, it's pretty cool".

DeVito has turned 50. He celebrated with a big party and a birthday cake iced with a picture of Asbury Park, the New Jersey home town that injects you with a drive to succeed in life because that's the only way you'll escape. Most of his goals have been scored. "I'd like to do Shakespeare," he says, if you really press him for a lingering ambition. "*Richard III*."

Okay, anything he *doesn't* ache to do? "I have no interest in giving birth."

ROCK: Big names, not all present or correct

Music down the line



Scary and alien: Pulp, with Jarvis Cocker second from left

BT Tenth Anniversary
London Arena

ON THE 36th floor of London's BT Tower, a man with a lisp was playing host to guests of the semi-alternative light entertainment persuasion. This was Jonathan Ross, hogging two giant video screens and looking jolly smug about being where he was and not where we were.

Which was the Docklands Arena, where another man with a lisp was telling us from the stage that it was Boxing Day, when in fact we knew there were still another 18 shopping days to go before Christmas. This was children's TV presenter Toby Anstis, and it says much about the way we cherish and protect the innocence of such successors to the mantle of the original *Blue Peter* team that no one in the entire stadium sought to correct him.

Poor chap, he seemed totally convinced too. "She's probably backstage unwrapping one last present," he said when Sophie B. Hawkins was a few moments late emerging from the wings. Too much exposure to glove puppets and Aussie soap stars, one can't but feel.

The occasion was the British Telecom Birthday Party, a tenth anniversary pop-fest held in aid of the Prince's Trust and to be screened for the benefit of non-attendees on December 26. And the non-attendees included quite a number of the bigger names on the bill, it has to be said. Performances by the likes of Meat Loaf, M People, Joe Cocker and Cliff Richard were beamed in by satellite from their respective concert venues around the UK, while Luther Vandross and Elton John stayed home and sent in videos instead.

No deterrent to a hardcore element hellbent on pleasure though. The first lighters were held aloft not when Roachford got all anguished or Eternal showed off their dance steps, but when the former Fat Reg from Pinner shared the screens with an animated lion cub in a promotional clip for Disney's *The Lion King*.

"We want Kylie," was a popular chant during the dull bits and one rewarded by an eventual sighting of the pocket Venus decorating a grand piano rather as models used to decorate sports cars in the days before political correctness.

My favourite moment was when Pulp took the stage, so scary and alien betwixt the likes of Belinda Carlisle and Paul Young that all the middle-aged corporate types rose as one and headed for the bar or the loo. Frontman Jarvis Cocker looked magnificent wearing a knowing sneer and the sort of slacks last seen at a David Mellor photo opportunity. "Ta. Goodnight," he said, turning on his heel when underwhelmed applause greeted a song about wanting to impregnate your girlfriend. Sometimes, it's good to walk, he proved.

ALAN JACKSON

JAZZ: A singer back from the cold

Shades of blues

Ruth Brown
Ronnie Scott's

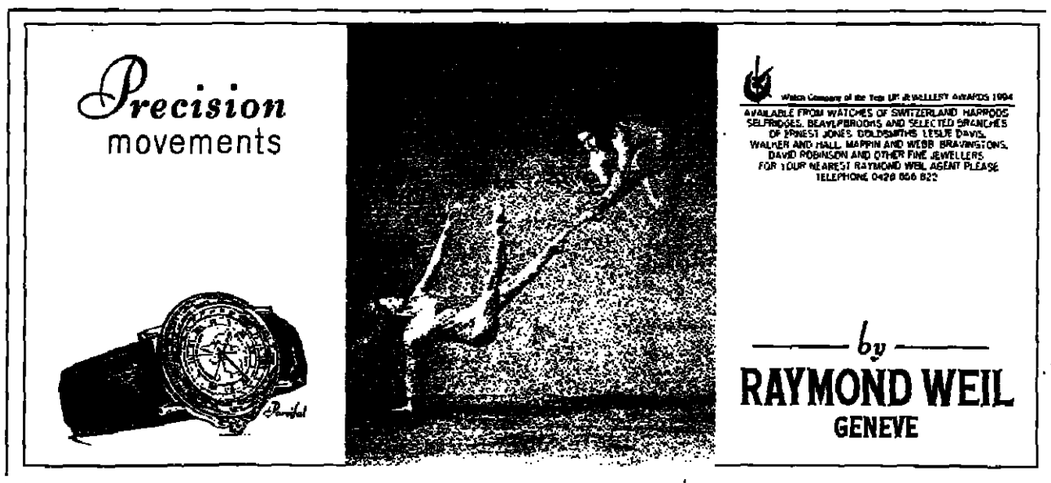
THE NEAR five-decade career of Virginia-born singer Ruth Brown, currently engaged in a standing-room only season at Ronnie Scott's (for the second time this year) has had its ups and downs. She cut her teeth in Lucky Millinder's Band before notching up a series of R and B hits for Atlantic in the 1950s. At her first peak, in the late 1950s, she topped a bill at the Apollo Theatre, New York, also featuring Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk.

Like many of her black contemporaries, however, she frequently had to watch from the sidelines while white singers — Patti Page and Georgia Gibbs in her case — covered and popularised her material. After a good few wilderness years, she returned to public attention by receiving a Tony Award for her performance in the musical *Black and Blue*, won a Grammy, was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and sang at President Clinton's inauguration.

The most obvious legacy of these vicissitudes is her supreme professionalism. Fronting a super tight, impeccably well-drilled sextet featuring two saxophones, an electric guitar and a rock solid rhythm section, she is a uniquely compelling performer not only of blues-based staples such as "I'm just a Lucky So and So" and Billie Holiday's "Fine and Mellow", but also of less strident fare. Her smouldering version of "Have a Good Time", in which she affects insouciance at a lover's betrayal, was a particular highlight.

Her firm commitment to entertaining audiences has its advantages and disadvantages, while encouraging her to include inimitably bawdy crowd pleasers involving extended *double entendres* in the true Blues tradition. But it also leaves her vulnerable to the odd misjudgment in this set, such as her version of Eric Clapton's mawkish dirge "Tears in Heaven". This falsely sentimental note aside, though, Brown turned in a performance of consummate artistry.

CHRIS PARKER



LONDON

OLIVER! Opening night for Cameron Mackintosh's lavish revival of the Bart musical. Jonathan Pryce plays Fagin, Sally Dexter is Nancy; Sam Mendes directs.
Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020) Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. 🅂

SLAVS: After *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner looks at what Communism did to Russia. Matthew Lloyd directs a splendid cast that includes Imelda Staunton, Ron Cook, Paul Jesson, Aisling O'Sullivan, and Peter Copley as the world's oldest Bolshevik.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews begin tonight, 8pm; opens Dec 13, 7pm. 🅂

THE THREEPENNY OPERA: Tom Hollander sings Macheath in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht". Phyllida Lloyd directs; new lyric translation by Jeremy Sams
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). Previews begin tonight, 8pm, opens Dec 14, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm 🅂

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA: Chantal Juillet joins conductor Charles Dutoit for the UK premiere of Goldschmidt's Violin Concerto tonight. Works from Bizet (*L'Arlesienne*, Suite No 2) and Prokofiev (Symphony No 5) open and close the programme.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800) Tonight, 7.30pm 🅂

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Yuri Bashmet is the principal conductor and soloist for tonight's **CBSO** concert. The programme opens with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 6 and closes with Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings; 19-year-old Daniel Harding, assistant to the music director, makes a welcome return to the podium for the middle work, Schnittke's Viola Concerto. Tomorrow, Handel's *Messiah*. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (021-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. 🅂

EDINBURGH. Raymond Leppard turns his attention to Prague in the third in his geographical series of Mozart concerts with the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**. The programme opens with overture to *Don Giovanni*, the opera Mozart wrote for the magnificent city's National Theatre. Lynne Dawson is the soloist.
Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (031-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm. Limited view seats only 🅂

EXETER. The **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** embarks on another of its double-bill programmes tonight. Wagner's overture, *The Flying Dutchman*, Brahms's Piano Concerto No 1, Lutoslawski's *Mi-Parti* and Stravinsky's magical *Firebird* Suite are conducted by Yuri Simonov and repeated tomorrow in Basingstoke.
University of Exeter, Great Hall (0392 211080). Tonight, 7.30pm. **Anvil** 🅂 (0256 844244). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER. The Whitworth celebrates **Anthony Caro's** 70th birthday with the first retrospective of his table sculpture. If you are not already familiar with Caro's work, this is a not-to-be-missed chance to discover the wonders of one of the great innovators and inventors of 20th-century sculpture.
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road (061-273 4865). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Thurs, 10am-8pm. Until Feb 4. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: A Bitter Truth: Avant-Garde Art and the Great War (071-638 4141) **British Museum:** Pre-Raphaelite Drawings; Chinese Teawares (071-636 1555) . . . **Hayward:** The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990 (071-928 3144) . **National Portrait Gallery:** The Sitwells (071-306 0055) . . . **National Gallery:** The Young Michelangelo (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy:** The Glory of Venice, until Dec 14 (071-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine:** Rebecca Horn (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate:** Whistler; Rebecca Horn (071-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Kalighat: Indian Popular Painting 1800-1930; Streetstyle (071-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
🅂 **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BROKEN GLASS:** Strong performances from Margot Leicester and Henry Goodman in Arthur Miller's latest. An American Jewish couple in the 1930s, wanting to ignore the Nazi menace.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm (sign language interpreted). 🅂

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE:** Nigel Hawthorne amusing as the dilapidated Lord Ogleby but his direction prettifies and diminishes the play. Some clever supporting performances
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sats and Dec 21 and 28, 2.30pm.

☐ **FASCINATING AIDA:** The girls are back with an evening of glamour, quick wits and sharp tongues
Garrick, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (071-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm. Until Jan 21.

☐ **HAMLET:** Peter Hall directs Stephen Dillane's darkly humorous, self-doubting Prince, backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dobie
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. 🅂

🅂 **MOLLY SWEENEY.** Brian Friel directs his own superb play: Catherine Byrne, Mark Lambert and T P McKenna voice feelings to do with blindness, illusion and much more
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Dec 23 🅂

☐ **ON APPROVAL:** Peter Hall gives us the Lonsdale play as it was and is: a sophisticated, diverting but relatively sexless piece. Martin Jarvis is in brilliant form, with Anna Carteret, Louise Lombard and Simon Ward.

Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. 🅂

☐ **OUT OF THE BLUE:** Deeply sincere Anglo-Japanese musical, about forgiveness, happiness and so forth. Dullish
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399) Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mats today, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. Final week. 🅂

🅂 **A PASSIONATE WOMAN.** Stephanie Cole plays a woman who'd rather sit on the roof and dream than attend her son's wedding: Ned Sherrin directs Kay Mellor's entertaining, though lightweight comedy.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

🅂 **RAISING FIRES:** Black Essex girl suspected of arson in the days of witch burning. Strong sense of period in Jenny McLeod's award-winning play about, greed, gossip and hypocrisy.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **SKETCHES BY BOZ:** Six of Dickens's early character sketches, neatly dramatised and richly exploited for their comedy and melodrama.
BAC Arts Cafe, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 6.30pm

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN:** Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Hille show how youthful high spirits petrify into grim old age. Superb performances in Edward Albee's powerful drama.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

🅂 **Arcadia:** Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing.** Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . . ☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . 🅂 **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . 🅂 **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . ☐ **Copacabana.** Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ☐ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (071-494 5070) . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe** Lyric (071-494 5045) ☐ **Grease:** Dominion (071-416 6060) 🅂 **An Inspector Calls:** Aldwych (071-836 6404) . . ☐ **Lady Windermere's Fan** Albery, final week (071-867 1115) 🅂 **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) . . . 🅂 **Miss Saigon.** Theatre Royal (071- 494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) ☐ **Neville's Island:** Apollo (071-494 5070) . . ☐ **Once on This Island** Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) . . . 🅂 **Only the Lonely:** Piccadilly (071-369 1734) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ☐ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie:** Strand (071-930 8800) . . ☐ **The Queen and I** Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ☐ **She Loves Me:** Savoy (071-836 8888) . . . ☐ **The Sisters Rosensweig.** Old Vic (071-928 7616) 🅂 **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (071-344 0055) . . . 🅂 **The Woman in Black.** Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **CORRINA, CORRINA** (PG): Housemaid Whoopi Goldberg reawakens a household numbed by grief. Increasingly predictable sentimental drama with Ray Liotta and Tina Majorino. Director, Jessie Nelson
MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

◆ **FORREST GUMP** (12): Endearing if indulgent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for baby boomers. With Tom Hanks. Director, Robert Zemeckis.
Empire 🅂 (0800 888911) **MGMs: Baker St** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **A GOOD MAN IN AFRICA** (15): Misjudged version of William Boyd's comic novel about corruption and morality in West Africa. With Colin Friels and Sean Connery. Director, Bruce Beresford
MGMs: Fulham Road 🅂 (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800 888897)

◆ **HIGHLANDER III: THE SORCERER** (15): Incoherent addition to the tiresome series about Christopher Lambert's wandering immortal. Director, Andy Morahan.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **Plaza** (0800 888897) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

◆ **I LOVE TROUBLE** (PG): Romantic comedy thriller that fails to match its vintage Hollywood models. With Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte; director, Charles Shyer.
Odeon West End (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN** (15): Unwieldy, overdone, unenjoyable slog through the famous story. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars with Robert De Niro and Helena Bonham Carter.
Barbican 🅂 (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** 🅂 (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

MY FAIR LADY (U) Resplendent restored print of the 1964 musical, with Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, very familiar tunes and Edwardian finery galore. Directed by George Cukor.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279)

◆ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG): The King of Hallowe'en tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy conceived by Tim Burton, directed by Henry Selick.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **West End** (0426-915 574) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

◆ **THE SHADOW** (12): Laboured adventures of the 1930s crimefighter, with Alec Baldwin, John Lone and Penelope Ann Miller. Director, Russell Mulcahy.
Plaza 🅂 (0800 888897) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

NEW RELEASES

◆ **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** (U): Gooey but just about digestible remake of the 1947 fantasy, with Richard Attenborough as a department store Santa. Written and produced by John Hughes
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (071-792 3332)

CRONOS (18) An alchemist's device offers eternal youth and a taste for blood. Imaginative Mexican vampire film from promising director Guillermo del Toro
Metro (071-437 0757)

TO DIE FOR (15): Feeble British supernatural comedy about the aftermath of a lover's death from Aids. Peter Mackenzie Litten directs. Thomas Arkle and Ian Williams
Metro (071-437 0757) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (071-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

◆ **TRIAL BY JURY** (15): Will juror Joanne Whalley-Kilmer submit to Mafia pressure? Laughable courtroom drama, with Gabriel Byrne, William Hurt and Armand Assante. Director, Heywood Gould
MGMs: Fulham Road 🅂 (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE CLIENT** (15): Mediocre version of John Grisham's thriller about a boy in jeopardy, with Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones and Brad Renfro. Director, Joel Schumacher.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (071-434 0031) **Warner** 🅂 (071-437 4343)

High streets, mean streets

Guy Walters finds much to intrigue in a new V&A exhibition of urban images by some of the most famous photographers in the business

Fans of Harry Enfield will remember a sketch of his which featured a hip-hop band that got its "sounds off the street, man," which meant that the lyrics were taken from signs in shops: "Everything must go, baby". "Twenty per cent off until Friday, dude". Enfield's "band" had reduced the notion of life on the street from one of daring and adventure to materialism; a far cry from The Stones' "Street Fighting Man". The reality, as we all know, embraces both Jagger's "sound of marching, charging feet" and Woolworth's latest offer.

> "These are undoubtedly powerful and challenging pictures, but where is the laughter?"

The Victoria and Albert Museum's photographic exhibition, "Street Photography", attempts to capture this, but doesn't quite hit the mark. The display of over a hundred works complements the museum's "Streetstyle" exhibition of street fashions from 1940s Harlem to the present day. "Street Photography" certainly looks good on paper. Richard Avedon, Cindy Sherman, Irving Penn, Roger Mayne, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Weegee and David Bailey are all represented; and there is a healthy cross-section of times and places — Petticoat Lane 1956, Paris 1968, Madrid 1853 and Amsterdam 1945 among them. The works are taken from the archive of 300,000 photographs which the museum has accumulated since 1856, but this wealth of choice has perhaps been more of a burden than a blessing.

What is lacking is a sense of celebration. The selection largely concentrates on gloomy topics: deprivation (Don McCullin's 1973 *Portrait Of An Irish Down-And-Out*); death (Weegee's 1940 photograph of a dead man on the road); alienation (Robert Frank's *London Street 1951*, which features a young girl running into a fog with a hearse in the foreground); and overcrowding (Andreas Feininger's *Lunch Hour On 5th Avenue, NYC 1950*, showing the thoroughfare crammed with people).

There is no doubt that these are all challenging and powerful pictures, but where are the smiles? Where is the laughter? Where, for example, is Weegee's famous 1940s photograph of a group of New York children being showered by a spouting fire hydrant, *Summer, The Lower East Side, 1937*?

The exhibition's curator, Mark Haworth-Booth, believes there is a sense of celebration. He cites the joys on the faces in Cas Oorthuys's *Liberation Day Conga, Amsterdam 1945* as an example, as well as pictures taken by Seidenstücker of Berliners going about normal pedestrian activities, pushing prams and jumping over puddles. In the same vein, he suggests a Tom Wood picture of a Liverpool street scene, which he says, "is a cheery picture of being on the top deck of a bus, watching the people going about their business".

But the upbeat is in a minority — the Martyn Lewis factor is not very high. Certainly, urban living can be a depressing experience, but the works on show seem to contrast too heavily with the glory of South Kensington on a crisp December morning. Hayworth-Booth says that the exhibition seeks to "underline the fragility of things. It is neither upbeat nor downbeat but reveals complexity. Photography is a realist medium."

Hayworth-Booth admits that a single room of 100 photographs is restrictive when it comes to displaying the street in all its manifestations, but there is some humour. A sequence by Duane Michals called *Chance Meeting 1969*, shows us something that we have all experienced. Two men walk past each other on the pavement, one of them craning his neck as he thinks he recognises the other. They walk past. The other man then stops and looks back, the expression on his face saying, "Now who is that? I'm sure I've seen him somewhere before. But where?"

David Bailey's shot of Jean Shrimpton in New York in 1962 shows the model standing beneath a sign that reads "Twist". The pedestrian signal reads "Walk". The passerby looks as though he's attempting to do both. Perhaps streetlife means not knowing which way to turn.

● Street Photography *is at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (071-938 8500) until Jan 9*



Model of photographic virtuosity: David Bailey's *Jean Shrimpton, New York, 1962*

MUSIC: A hitherto useful organisation promoting young musicians fails to rise to the occasion

Poor show of youth

YCAT Anniversary Concert
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Young Concert Artists Trust has done admirable work in auditioning, managing and providing platforms for young professional musicians. But its shabby tenth anniversary concert was neither worthy of that work, nor did it inspire confidence in its continuing musical judgment.

Three years ago the Board of YCAT chose to represent the orchestra Eos, and its conductor Charles Hazlewood. Their presence tainted two-thirds of Monday's concert. This is an orchestra which prides itself on its innovative approaches to the presentation of classical music.

This apparently means playing everything with a slick beat, regardless of breathing, phrasing and ensemble, and hoping that its audience will be distracted from such minor matters by the accompanying light show.

This now weary novelty is only crudely achieved by Eos: harsh light for a tutti, low lights for a solo, lights up after the slow movement (generating knee-jerk reaction applause at just the wrong moment), and plenty of shadow over the keyboard if at all possible.

No wonder Priya Mitchell (violin) and Philip Dukes (viola) gave an edgy, aggressive performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante K364, and pianist Anya Alexeev (daughter of Dmitri) had to strain every muscle in her small body in order to pound her way through Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E flat.

YCAT's judgment also leaves a lot to be desired in its patronage of composer Andrew Toovey, whose *OUT!*, a new commission for two pianos and orchestra, was given its first performance here by Joanna MacGregor and Andrew West. This childish collage of Mozart and Chopin has all the pretension and vacuousness of the very worst installation art.

In a little oasis in the middle of the evening, YCAT singers, Ian Bostridge, Susan Gritton, and Claire Rutter gave fleeting party pieces by Poulenc and Messiaen. Only Gritton seemed truly at ease and properly warmed up, however, though Bostridge and Rutter both showed that they were interested in a degree of true communication so sadly lacking in the brash display of so many of the evening's other performances.

HILARY FINCH

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 071-493 2107. Drawings and Watercolours by EDWARD BURRA - The Formative Years 1923-27. 1-21 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

ROY MILES GALLERY. RUSSIAN PAINTINGS. 29 Bruton Street, W1. Telephone: 071-495 4747.

CONCERTS

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THEATRE: A Victorian classic; a lusty new play; the London Comedy Festival; and Kander & Ebb's forgotten musical

More than a ghost of Dickens's humanity

DONALD COOPER



Clive Francis's Scrooge, hobbling about the stage, his body bent, his face pinched

Oh no, not another *Christmas Carol*. Over the years I have seen Scrooges who cried "humbug" with all the menace of a roguish OAP buying peppermints. Tiny Tims so chirpy they might as well have entered on pogo-sticks, and, if memory serves, a dead Marley whose plaint of "no rest, no peace" was the cue for a number involving dancing skeletons. Surely the Royal Shakespeare Company was not about to serve up that sort of Christmas turkey.

We should have had more faith in the company that did, after all, bring us *Nicholas Nickleby*. This is robustly in the same tradition. Ian Judge's production could sometimes be harsher without compromising the celebratory spirit that intensifies as the evening progresses: but John Mortimer's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is remarkably like Dickens's tale of the same name.

I bet most of us would not quickly place Mr Fezziwig, were Magnus Magnusson to fling us a question about him. Well, he is the jovial merchant to whom the young Scrooge was apprenticed, and he turns up at the Barbican, complete with wife, daughters, daughters' admirers, mince pies and the fiddler who "tuned like 50 stomach aches". So do miners and mariners, as well as Ali Baba, Robinson Crusoe (plus authentically green-and-yellow parrot) and the other inhabitants of Ebenezer's boyhood imagination.

Mortimer's narrative owes much to the methods pioneered by David Edgar in *Nickleby*. Members of the cast speak in the third person, their lines eddying from top hat to workman's cap, and then launch into longish bursts of dialogue. The visual effects are, however, more elaborate; and not just because the odd character, Clive Francis's Scrooge included, flies above John Gunter's fragmentary rooftops and towards his silhouettes of St Paul's.

Scrooge's seedy office swivels onto the stage, as does his dowdy bedroom and, much later, the burial-buzzards' parlour where his deathbed leavings are sold. London is, on the whole, a grey-black place where the Cratchits really do have "shoes far from waterproof and scanty clothes". When phantoms are drifting through the murk in sackcloth winding sheets, it is a pretty creepy place, too.

A Christmas Carol
Barbican

But maybe it could be creepier without traumatising a generation of tots? John Bennett's Marley looks appropriately gruesome, with his gaunt, yellow face, and clanks dolefully up from the Barbican cellarage; but he could sound more stricken. The Ghost of Christmas Future, a ten-foot monk with no head and vast bony hands, looks wonderfully sinister; but his wheels creak. In neither case does Francis's Scrooge quake with the horror Dickens specified. Judge has yet to learn that nothing is more terrifying than terror itself.

But that, along with a tendency to get winsome at the end, is Francis's only serious flaw. He hobbles about the bleak stage, his body bent, his voice a thin, malevolent bleat, his face white and pinched, his very nose — but how to describe something that belongs on a Swiss army knife? A blend of blade and hook, it could be used for opening bottles, destoning hoofs, stabbing people to death, and hanging them up by their collars. It is an unsentimental nose for what is, despite the vulnerability and the regrets, a pretty unsentimental Scrooge.

Only occasionally did I feel that Dickens's attack on money and Malthus could be tougher. John Kane's beaming Christmas Present makes more impression when he is lolling in dionysiac fashion amid an *ad hoc* harvest festival than when he opens his cloak to let out Want and Ignorance. Those misbegotten children could be much nearer the "abject, hideous, shrivelled, scowling, wolfish, frightful" duo Dickens wanted.

If they were, Kane's warnings of doom ahead, rightly addressed to us in the audience, would ring more ominously. But it is impossible to complain of an event so thoroughly Dickensian. It exudes energy, concern, scorn for stinginess, love of generosity and munificence of spirit. What finer Christmas present could the RSC and its sponsor, Unilever, be giving us?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Lost in the lust

Ashes and Sand
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court

Winner of this year's George Devine Award for new writing, Judy Upton's 90-minute study of lust'n'violence is both mature and peculiar. Mature in its capable use of language, the brash street-talk of the gang of teenage girls rampaging along the Brighton seafront, the evasive confidences of Daniel, the plain-clothes policeman whose odd life keeps intersecting theirs; mature in the way that Upton organises those intersections, so that finally the gang's need to inflict violence answers Daniel's unspoken longing to receive it.

But peculiar in its premise of this strange mutual dependence, and the curious route it takes to show that a deep, dark, intolerable desire is clamouring to emerge from within an amiable man.

Gang-leader Hayley, fretting that she will soon be old (ie, 16), energises her three mates with a plan to start afresh in Bali. To raise the fares they rob stores and mug youths. But a malignant fate undermines their ventures, and failure is compounded by teenage lust. Hayley and Lauren (Rakie Ayola) both have the hots for Daniel, a friend of Hayley's dad.

Daniel discourages them in a way that can only encourage them, and Nick Reding's performance takes us into the clouded internal world that lies behind the lazy-lidded eyes and a readiness to lark about with the under-age girls in an arcade. There is no indication that he wants sex with them — itself a peculiarity in 1994 — though he does have this habit of putting a Trebor mint between his lips and kissing it into a girl's mouth.

As you can see, the play leads us into murky waters. In the privacy of his room Daniel reverences high-heeled shoes, though I think Ian Rickson's production strays too close to melodrama in bathing these scenes with red light. There is a further problem in the age of the actresses playing teenage girls: Susan Lynch, in particular, looks more like a voracious housewife than a frantic 15-year-old.

But Rickson sensitively manages the tonal shifts of the play, and shows great skill in using Jeremy Herbert's mirrored set. This is one of the most original features of Upton's play, where angled mirrors show us the inside and outside of a room.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Tunes under the beds

Flora The Red Menace
Orange Tree, Richmond

Kander and Ebb are famed for *Cabaret* and *The Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. Most folks have forgotten about *Flora The Red Menace*, their first musical (1965), though it launched Liza Minnelli. In Britain it has scarcely seen the light of day, which is surprising since the show proves mighty enjoyable.

Flora The Red Menace is about communism and the Depression, refreshingly atypical stuff for a Manhattan song-and-dance. Flora is a feisty gal (knowingly strident Lucy Tregear) with ambitions as an illustrator, but unemployed. Applying for a post at a grand Manhattan design house, she meets Harry, an out-of-work artist who speaks out for rights. Flora goes for it — for the job and the guy — and gets both, for a while.

Harry rents some studio space, paying with apples, in Flora's house of fun artistic types: Willy the clarinettist; Elsa the clothes designer; and Kenny and Maggie the dancers (Graeme Henderson and Julie-Ann Ward who, albeit not so hot on singing and acting, tap with terrific pizazz).

It is a mutually supportive commune but squeaky clean sexually, and the kids still have capitalist ideals. But Harry (excellent Dale Rapley) has found communism and persuades Flora to sign. Flora attends her first wonderfully absurd Party meeting, where Comrade Charlotte (Elizabeth Mansfield) catalogues her week's revolutionary skirmishes with buses.

Flora starts secretly recruiting employees into an illegal union. Meanwhile Charlotte, burning for Harry as much as for the Cause, is tempting our hero outrageously. But ultimately, when Flora has to cross a picket line, Harry's politics comes between them.

Walters directs slickly with a fitting hint of Poor Theatre about the wooden floor and upright piano, even if clumpy playing brings out an unadventurousness in some tunes. Ebb's lyrics, often droll as is David Thompson's screwball book, flirt with real life: the heroine sings us through a job application form. The show, though plot twists can be rudimentary, veers intriguingly between ridiculing Marxism and singing the praises of its ideals.

KATE BASSETT

MARILYN KINGWILL



Comrades in each other's arms: Lucy Tregear and Dale Rapley in *Flora the Red Menace* at Richmond

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COMEDY: The launch of an eclectic festival of fun in Hammersmith leaves **Kate Bassett** only mildly amused

Why stand up to be counted here?



William Burdett-Coutts: "single venue lends focus"

Convince me. "Welcome to the London Comedy Festival at Riverside Studios. Why Comedy? Why London? Why Riverside?" Double-barrelled William Burdett-Coutts shoots himself in the foot. He raises questions about his programming in the first sentence of the new London Comedy Festival's promotional brochure. And his answers are hardly persuasive.

Comedy: these days, he observes, you can't switch on your TV or radio without encountering a comic. So why, one might ask, fill theatre spaces with more of the same? London: the place, he says, has more comedy clubs than almost any city worldwide. Erm, so why more of the same?

Riverside: Burdett-Coutts becomes more plausible here. He argues that a single venue gives focus. True. Across-the-capital festivals look impressive on paper, but are a turn-off when you start thinking about Tube journeys and scattered energy. Revamped Riverside is an attractive hang-out, and more widely inviting than clubs. Moreover, with 90 events, including Eddie Izzard and Lenny Henry, maybe it's not too cheeky to announce that "London" is at Riverside.

London Comedy Festival Gala
Riverside Studios

Burdett-Coutts also emphasises that the multiplex Studios can embrace varied art forms. Alongside stand-up, there are movies, discussions and exhibitions. A programme of cinema classics, albeit scarcely comprehensive, ranges from the Marx Brothers to Buñuel. The talk by cartoonist Glen Baxter should be intriguing. But the display of cartoons and a few *Private Eye* covers is desultory.

As well as the medley of jokers in the gala performances (also on Carlton, December 12 and 19), the festival makes room for a broad range of lengthier solo shows, including Ennio Marchetto, Owen O'Neill and Alan Davies. If the rock 'n' roll of the Nineties isn't to gather moss, artists should indeed be given time in which to experiment. However, many of these shows are replays from Edinburgh, where Burdett-Coutts ran the Assembly Rooms.

Still, a booking here has new spectators and helps keep Riverside financially afloat and animatedly eclectic. The gala performance I caught provided bites of some brilliant absurdists. Uglymug Dave Schneider peels an orange with outrageously juicy implications. Ole, looking like three toreadors with 18th-century toothache, sing Flamenco with pingpong balls in their cheeks. Phil Kaye streaks around like Christ gone bananas, doing impressions of falling, holding his hair up straight. But retakes for the camera kill the comic spirit. Compère Craig Ferguson — funniest off the cuff — repeating himself off the autocue rings untrue.

RADIO: Plays, serials and a fine documentary commemorate a great writer's centenary

In the steps of a hopeful traveller

Robert Louis Stevenson was a children's writer: discuss. A good examination question, that, one I recommend to academics scratching their heads for new ways to extract swotted knowledge from their students.

Robert Louis Stevenson was a children's writer? Bah, humbug. Next question.

It is a matter of curiosity that Stevenson should now be so compartmentalised by some, a comment perhaps on the state of modern literature. Stevenson wrote exciting stories in an exciting way, his observation was sharp as a tack and his dialogue absolutely authentic, even in the context of his surreal tales. So no chance of a posthumous Booker for him.

Thank the stars, then, for BBC Radio, which has been celebrating the centenary of Stevenson's death with a marvellous series of programmes: plays, serials, readings, a documentary.

If these ventures have done nothing else — and they have done much else — then the serialisation of **Kidnapped** on Radio 4 (Sundays, repeated Fridays) has served to reacquaint ancient Eng. Lit. students such as myself with this, one of the finest reads in the English language.

The dramatisation is by Catherine Czerkawska and, yes I know, it's a repeat — but drama productions of this standard bear repeating, with or without the excuse of an anniversary. The Stevenson programmes are spread around Radios 2, 3 and 4, and the Radio 2 contribution was an extremely entertaining literary travelogue by Hunter Davies called *In Search of Robert Louis Stevenson* (Sunday).

The journey took in Edinburgh, Bournemouth, France, California and Western Samoa, where one night after dinner Stevenson clutched his head and cried to his wife, Fanny: "Do I look strange?" In two hours he was dead, aged 44.

Stevenson was one of the few writers who had a life as adventurous as the lives he invented or expanded for his stories, and this BBC season has perfectly reflected the extent to which Stevenson's impulses as a traveller were his impulses as a writer.

I suppose his most famous character creations are Jekyll and Hyde and his most famous expression "It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive". Really? Did Stevenson say that? Yes he did, and I had forgotten, too. I had also forgotten, but Davies reminded me, that Stevenson in his early days in Edinburgh was fond of low life, and was inclined to mix with prostitutes and destitutes. He could, had he wanted, have manufactured a career exclusively out of writing about such people, no doubt thereby endearing himself to the modern literati.

Instead he travelled hopefully *and* arrived, conveying via his experiences true romance and genuine adventure. Who will we be celebrating for those qualities 100 years hence?

PETER BARNARD

A NIGHT OUT ON APPROVAL

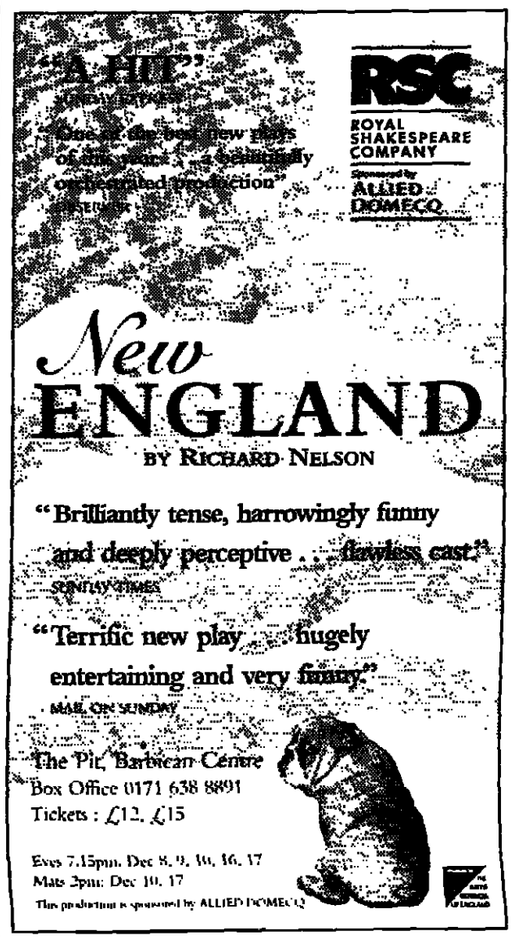
LONDON
Playhouse Theatre
Dec 14, 15

DIRECTOR Peter Hall returns to the Playhouse with an all-star cast, including Anna Carteret, Martin Jarvis, Louise Lombard and Simon Ward in Frederick Lonsdale's *On Approval*, the classic 1920s comedy about the "new woman".

Widow Maria Wislack (Carteret) is used to having the best of everything and believes that one should be no less discerning when choosing a husband. As she now realises the impossibility of really knowing a man before marriage, she invites her prospective mate away for a month on approval.

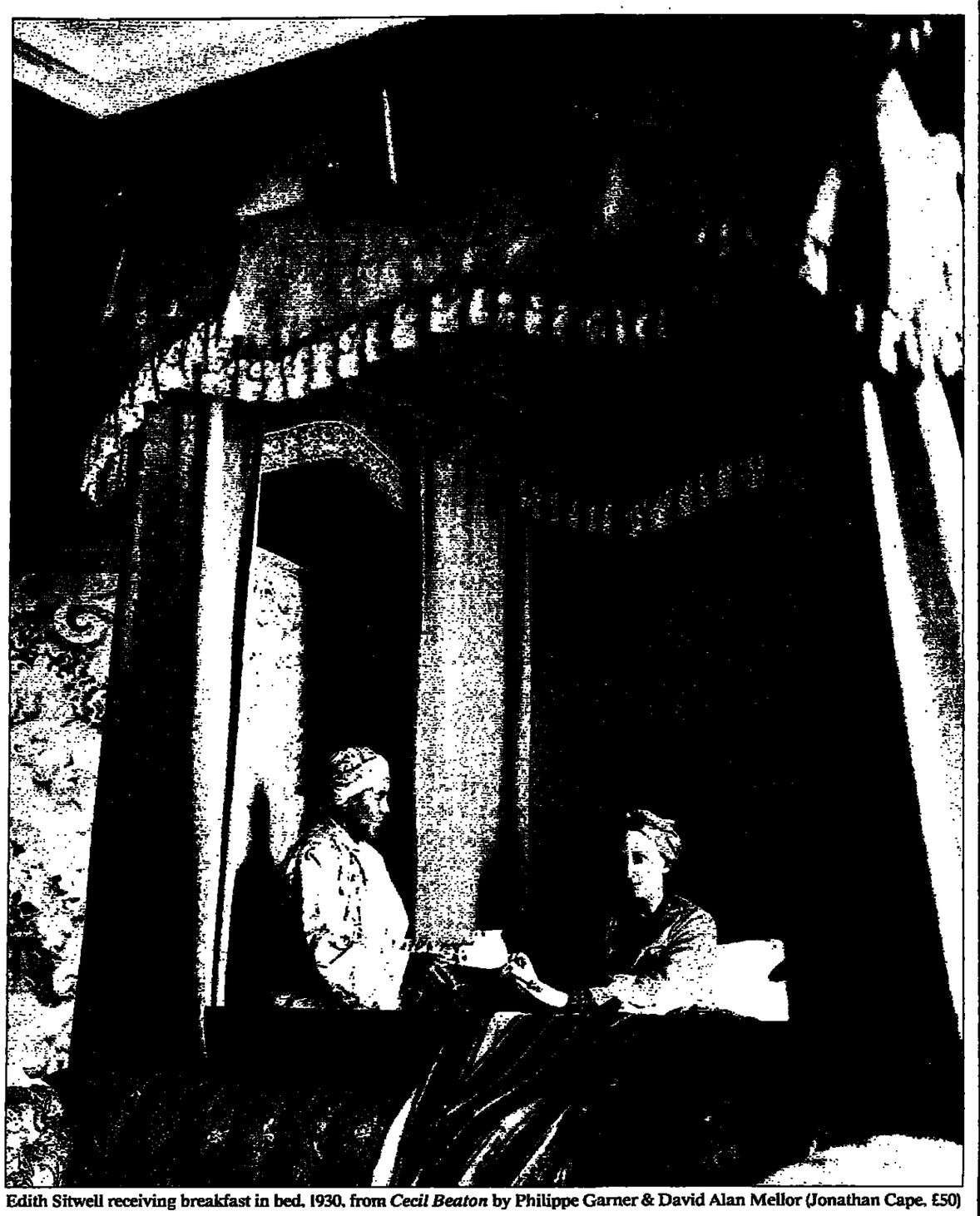
Theatre Club members are invited to see the show and enjoy a two-course dinner with the cast at La Diva, the newly re-opened restaurant at the Playhouse. The cost: tickets are £25 (the normal ticket price alone is £20). To book, telephone 071-839 4401. Membership of the Theatre Club is £12.50 a year. To join, please call 0208 4662. For general inquiries, ring 071-387 9673.

THE THEATRE CLUB



High altars on the move

Peter Ackroyd on an evocation of the English Baroque: a rebellion against the puritan ethic



Edith Sitwell receiving breakfast in bed, 1930, from *Cecil Beaton* by Philippe Garner & David Alan Mellor (Jonathan Cape, £50)

They still live within the tableaux they created — Lord Berners playing a small harpsichord at the back of his Rolls-Royce, while dressed in an 18th-century brocaded coat and a pig's mask: Edith Sitwell looking so gothic "you can almost hang bells on her" or, as Stella Bowen put it, "like a high altar on the move"; Cecil Beaton reclining in a bed designed by a "manufacturer of fairground attractions"; Edward James lying on a carpet "woven with the design of the wet footprints of James's dogs and those of his wife, the exquisite but cruel actress, Tilly Losch"; Coco Chanel living with interior decoration which resembled "Tiepolo-in-hell".

Most of these descriptions come from Stephen Calloway's book, which itself has the fascination of all lavish and overwrought things. But it is also a work of scholarship in which the hothouse fruits of the baroque are considered as "our century's one great and wholehearted affirmation of delight in the richness and grandeur of things". At the beginning of the century, the salons, drawing rooms and cafés of London were crowded to suffocation with the harlequins of literature and of fashion. Any list must be selective but we may include, for the sake of argument, Rex Whistler, Ronald Firbank, Stephen Tennant, William Walton, Evelyn Waugh, Brian Howard and the Sitwells.

Of course not all of these names were celebrated by the more dour or academic critics of the period. The names of Waugh, Sitwell and Firbank were not enrolled in the ranks of F.R. Leavis's Great Tradition: that critic's sour Protestant spirit insisted upon scanning works of fiction or poetry for "moral sensibility" as if literature could be pressed into the service of some misplaced puritan ethic. In fact one of the great failures of orthodox criticism this country lies in its failure to recognise pantomimic excess and theatrical emotionalism as intrinsic aspects of the native genius. We were not all meant to be George Eliot.

On the subject of religion, however, there is more to be said. Calloway himself makes a connection between the rituals of the Roman Catholic faith and "the splendour of baroque imagery". England was a Catholic nation (and part of a Catholic civilisation) for a dozen centuries. It is possible to see in the aesthetic hyperboles of these children of the sun some stirring of a native Catholic spirit against Protestant domination.

Here we might put, for example, Evelyn Waugh and Edith Sitwell; they were both Catholic converts because they instinctively realised that it was the lost foundation of their genius. The notion of magnificence as an ethical category, the delight in parody and the penchant for elaborate display unite these writers and artists in a spirit which seems inalienably English and yet faintly improper. It is the spirit of the old faith.

Calloway describes it rather prettily as "a sweeter sort of Englishness" and of course it is intimately linked with the sensibility of those whom he described as "Italophile aesthetes" who returned to the seat of ancient religious power in an attitude of cultural nostalgia as well as artistic piety. They were to be found swooning among carved saints and 17th-century Italian bronzes, cardinals' seats and baroque candlesticks, ornate fonts and tapestries displaying the legends of the saints. It is not an easy aesthetic to define, as some of its own practitioners discovered.

Geoffrey Scott laboured for many years over a volume to be entitled *The History of Taste*; as Calloway explains, it "never progressed beyond a lone sheet of paper bearing the single demoralising first line: 'It is very difficult . . .'" And so the palm for the most famous critical book to emerge from that mélange of ecclesiastical tomes must go, by default, to Sacheverell Sitwell's *Southern Baroque Art*.

BAROQUE, BAROQUE
The Culture of Excess
By Stephen Calloway
Phaidon, £34.99

This is perhaps the occasion to notice the Sitwells themselves, who have been celebrated in a volume produced by the National Portrait Gallery to accompany what is apparently a very successful exhibition: **The Sitwells and the Arts of the 1920s and 1930s** *(NPG Publications, £19.95/14.95 pbk)*. The religious spirit of the English may be said to best display itself in their reverence for this holy trinity of magnificent absurdity. Noel Coward unflatteringly described them as "two wiseacres and a cow", but they are prime examples of English baroque.

They took themselves very seriously indeed, but there was a certain wonderful extravagance in their self-obsession. They were fatuous, perhaps, but on an heroic scale. Edith espoused a poetry marked by what she called "rhetoric and formalism", and quickly discovered that life should follow art in the same direction. Catholicism was her natural home. Her habit of drinking neat gin and lying in bed was not altogether helpful, however, and towards the end of her life she described herself as resembling a cross between a turkey stuffed for Christmas and an escapee from Broadmoor.

The Sitwells is in fact more than the catalogue of an exhibition: it is not only wittier than most other examples of its kind but it is also the picture of a certain kind of civilisation which, deprived of its true historical and religious foundations, was necessarily ramshackle, tottering and even a little crazy. This is also the civilisation which *Baroque, Baroque* celebrates and, although Calloway spreads his net perhaps a little too finely at the end, his book does provide a necessary corrective to the more orthodox histories of the 20th-century culture.

It will become apparent to those commentators who consider "postmodernism" to be some novelty of the late 20th century, for example, that the language of that discipline has been part of the English inheritance for the last hundred years — and, in fact, for many centuries beyond. *Baroque, Baroque* is a carefully written and wonderfully illustrated book: a touch of purple in the prose complements the deeper purple of the pages. But it is also a necessary book: it helps to redefine the notion of Englishness itself.

Tabloids and anthropoids

Ian McIntyre

HENRY WELLCOME
By Robert Rhodes James
Hodder & Stoughton, £25

HUXLEY
The Devil's Disciple
By Adrian Desmond
Michael Joseph, £20

The Wellcome pharmaceutical group's turnover exceeds £2 billion. The benefactions of the Wellcome Trust have been significant for medical research. Yet the man whose name they bear somehow slipped through the biographical net. Henry Solomon Wellcome died almost 60 years ago. Now Sir Robert Rhodes James has been invited to trawl the Trust's archives and try his hand at this rags to riches tale.

It began in the American midwest. Wellcome, the child of Second Adventist parents, grew up in Wisconsin and Minnesota. At 17 he went east to join a firm of pharmaceutical chemists. "Honest as the day is long," said a testimonial, "and no Bad habits of Character about him." Soon he was in New York, earning $16 a week. At 26 he sailed to England: "It is all in the voyage of life," he wrote, "and God our great Captain."

The great Captain assigned him initially to a partnership with his compatriot Silas Mainville Burroughs, also a pharmacist and a senator's son. "English medicine," wrote *The Pharmaceutical Era*, "was labouring in the slough of big bottles, big doses and nauseous drugs." Burroughs and Wellcome employed American salesmanship techniques to usher in the era of the mass-produced pill. (Wellcome coined the word "Tabloid" — and registered it as a trade mark.)

Burroughs's early death released him from an association that had become irksome. The first government contracts — for India and the Navy — came in 1899. Wellcome's interest in tropical medicine led to the establishment of a research laboratory in Khartoum. He seldom committed his ideas to paper: "My plans exist in my mind like a jigsaw puzzle, and gradually I shall be able to piece it together." He did so triumphantly.

His health was indifferent, his private life unhappy. He married late; his wife, Dr Barnardo's daughter, was 26 years his junior. The marriage broke down after nine years, a rupture hastened by Wellcome's collecting mania. His interests extended beyond medicine: he acquired General Gordon's Chinese robes, 80,000 models registered in the US Patent Office and the wheelbarrow used by Blondin to cross Niagara Falls.

For those who have admired Rhodes James's panache, this book will be a disappointment. The writing is undistinguished and occasionally slipshod. The sparkling biographer of Rosebery and Lord Randolph Churchill offers us here only journey-work.

No resort to auto-pilot in Adrian Desmond's *Huxley*. Desmond writes as if permanently wired up to a battery-charger — very much the impression Huxley made on his contemporaries.

George Eliot thought he was out of control half the time. "Cutting up monkeys was his forte," wrote the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "and cutting up men was his foible." Desmond calls him "Darwin's Rottweiler," and will clearly hear nothing against the breed: "Who can realise the prissy, patronage-based, undemocratic, sermon-dominated, Anglican-controlled, *different* society Huxley faced, and faced squarely?"

This volume carries us from Huxley's birth above an Ealing butcher's shop to his presidency, at 45, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. "He came from nowhere," Desmond writes, "a new Luther looking for a pulpit." His odyssey took him first to the South Seas as a surgeon's mate (Desmond's account of the mental disintegration of the captain is straight out of Patrick White's *Voss*). Then home to wrestle with the problem of how to move from surgery to science with no means.

He made his way with his tongue and his pen — medical reviews, German translations, articles for encyclopaedias, lectures for artisans that drew the sort of crowds reserved today for pop stars or evangelists. The range of his scientific interests knew no bounds — physiology, palaeontology, marine biology were all grist to his mill of "Scientific Calvinism".

When success and recognition came, they came abundantly. He held three London professorships concurrently. He was honoured by the Société d'Anthropologie in Paris and the Imperial Academy in St



Huxley by his daughter Marion

Petersburg. To his students he was "The General", to the press "Pope Huxley"; as he careered about London, there were cabbies who refused his fare: "Proud to have driven you, sir."

His lectures were too vehement for Darwin, but his support of Darwin's evolutionary naturalism was decisive. "Like a hyperactive Alpine goat," Desmond writes, "Huxley had followed Darwin to the precipice and made the long leap — to a belief that all life stems from *one* primordial form."

A fifth of this long book consists of index, notes and bibliography, yet Desmond's higher degree in vertebrate palaeontology never gets between him and the general reader. His declared intention is to paint an unashamedly *social* portrait, and to that end he employs what he terms a "ciné theory" of narration, "its historiography hidden". Just occasionally, the thrill of the hand-held camera is too much for him, and we stray into TV documentary land ("The gloss of gold replaced the dross of alien detachment. A new chauvinism punctured his blasé exterior. . .")

Mostly, however, the technique succeeds brilliantly. Desmond cites John Fiske, the "corpulent cosmic theist" who was one of Huxley's American admirers. There was no alternative to *seeing* such people, Fiske said. "Reading their books don't give you the flesh-and-blood idea of them. But once to see such a man as Huxley is never to forget him." Just such a flesh-and-blood idea emerges from this biography.

Moral biology

Adam Zeman

THE ETHICAL PRIMATE
Humans, Freedom and Morality
By Mary Midgley
Routledge, £17.99

Contemporary science has laid siege to the soul with a vengeance. The final conquest may not be in sight, but the scientists are confident that their flags will eventually flutter in the citadel of the mind. Mary Midgley believes that this would be a Pyrrhic victory, the outcome of "one of the most serious mistakes that the learned have ever made".

Take an example. You are reading these words for a reason. It would be discourteous to press you, but I'm sure you have one. Now exchange the view from within for a view from without: imagine yourself from a distance. In the place of actions, for which you have reasons, you find effects with causes: the rise and fall of your breathing, the excursions of your eyes, the incessant exchange of signals in your brain.

Must one of these points of view be an illusion? Midgley argues persuasively that to understand ourselves we require both.

The first part of this absorbing book is devoted to critique of the "reductive enterprise". The enterprise envisages that theoretical physics will eventually yield a "Theory of Everything". All other areas of inquiry will reduce to this monolithic truth.

Midgley has good grounds for pessimism about this project. First, like all our evolved attributes, our intellects are limited. Even if such a theory were on offer, it is depressingly doubtful that we could understand it. Secondly, the physicists themselves issue regular warnings that their science does not provide the ideal of objectivity required.

The most awkward obstacle of all is consciousness. Scientists are wrestling with this phenomenon, but many observers would agree with Midgley that current efforts to reduce mind to brain involve "building a smooth road to the edge of the Grand Canyon".

Armed with these destructive arguments, she suggests that science provides an invaluable map of the world around us — and, indeed, within us. But we should never expect it to guide us through the moral maze. Route-finding here requires the "everyday notion of individuals as agents", and our highly developed vocabulary of human action — with varieties accidental and deliberate, dependable and insane, worthy of praise and of blame. This is the domain of human freedom.

At this juncture, the argument takes off in an unexpected and interesting direction. Our lives are crowded with choices. As we try to trace a coherent path through them, we engage in moral thinking. The dilemmas which we ponder are unique. But human uniqueness is a matter of degree. Is there no hint of the source of moral thought in our biology?

Midgley develops the answer Darwin first proposed. She does so with the clarity of thought and exposition which epitomise this book. But it's hard to beat the masters whom she follows: "The social instincts . . . with the aid of active intellectual powers . . . naturally lead to the Golden rule, 'As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye to them likewise', and this lies at the foundation of morality."

WEEKEND BOOKS

Derwent May takes off with Terry Pratchett; Marcel Berlins on crime; audio books of the year; Daniel Johnson rereads Gibbon and Jane Owen reviews gardening books

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Turning insights out

Tibor Fischer

THE RUIN OF KASCH
By Roberto Calasso
Carcanet, £19.95

"When it comes to Monsieur de Chateaubriand, the critic can no longer act as critic; he merely gathers flowers along his way and fills his basket." Roberto Calasso is quoting Saint-Beuve on *La Vie de Rancé* here, but any critic of *The Ruin of Kasch* will similarly find flowers aplenty.

The Ruin of Kasch predates Calasso's slick and successful repackaging of Greek myths, *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony*, and although he employs some of the same tricks, it is not as smooth or as pleasurable: this is possibly because its scope is so much larger (pretty much everything) and because no matter how well you write about Ricardo and Marx, they can't compete with divine rumpypumpy.

A series of short, linked essays (or a very long rambling one), "Talleyrand, Prince of Benevento", provides the chief point of reference in *Kasch*. One of the strongest strands is the idea of modernity and Calasso homes in on the French Revolution, but chooses Talleyrand (ex-bishop, diplomat, philanderer and an unrivalled turner of coats) as his mascot.

Calasso reveres the usually reviled Talleyrand because of his talent for gliding through history from *ancien régime* to Louis-Philippe, a talent



Calasso: terrifying erudition

Calasso attributes to his sense of ritual and ceremony. This fascination with ceremony leads onto the other mainstay of the book: sacrifice. You also get a supporting cast which includes Proust, Guez de Balzac, Napoleon, Durkheim, Freud, Stirner, Céline, Benn and Vedic texts.

Calasso's erudition is terrifying. At its best his writing is stylish, clear and very funny and he can argue his case brilliantly, which makes it all the more annoying when sentences are occasionally overstuffed to the point of opacity.

Evidently a fanatical Francophile, Calasso sometimes succumbs to that bane of the French intellectual, fear of not being clever and new enough. He quotes from a work published in 1838 by Cieszkowski: "Today thought has been thought to its uttermost end", and later on observes "everything finds its way into the history of philosophy". Maybe it is the sensation that thinkers could be insighted out that drives them either into obscurity (so someone may mistake it for new profundity) or into Baudrillard-like contortions. Thus when Calasso writes "people's expectation that accidents will occur at a nuclear plant is pure ritual expectation", I don't think he's aware that this overextension of his argument is a bit silly.

The other drawback is that to even get a foothold the reader needs considerable familiarity with French life and letters from 1625 onwards, as well as with German philosophy; if Joseph de Maistre's *Les Soirées de Saint-Pétersbourg* is on your shelf, you qualify. The book isn't as self-contained or as accessible as *Cadmus and Harmony*, which is a pity; but Calasso is an awesome cultural commentator and I'm awaiting his next offering.

Dark twists in a heroic tale

Harriet Paterson

THE SMILE OF THE UNKNOWN MARINER
By Vincenzo Consolo
Carcanet, £14.99

WITH the usual tardiness, England is the last European country to discover the work of Vincenzo Consolo, one of the two or three top living narrative writers in Italy. He was born in 1933 near Cefalù in Sicily, where *The Smile of the Unknown Mariner* is set, and was a friend of another great Sicilian writer, Leonardo Sciascia. Consolo began writing this novel in 1969, just eleven years after the publication of Lampedusa's *The Leopard*, that landmark of the Risorgimento to which it has inevitably been compared.

Like Lampedusa, Consolo deals with the vital period of Sicilian history when Garibaldi landed at Marsala in 1860, but his sympathies lie with the peasant revolts rather than the demise of the aristocracy, thereby probing the dark side of one of Italy's favourite heroic tales. On Garibaldi's arrival, many peasants turned, on their hated landowners, believing themselves to be following his standard. Instead they were brutally imprisoned or slaughtered by Garibaldi's men.

Consolo circles the uprising from various points of view, interspersing the narrative with historical documents in the manner of Sciascia's *Death of the Inquisitor*. To offset any dryness, his prose is rich in poetic forms and aural rhythms, chants, hypnotic litanies of place-names, jewels, fish, herbs — the tangible realities of the past, set down to preserve memory.

The literary tradition of Sicily is one of epic verse and his narrative style seeks out this inheritance. For Consolo, poetry provides the dense, demanding medium which rescues language from commercial oblivion. It is also the ancient voice of lament, as the novel bears witness to yet more injustices endured by the Sicilian people.

The linguistic history of Sicily plays a key role in Consolo's book, as he sifts the successive vocabularies of Sicily's invaders — Greek, Saracen, Norman, Spanish. This "archeology of words" is then incorporated into and preserved by the novel. Many of these words have never been documented, yet the translator, Joseph Farrell, has nevertheless done a seamless piece of work.

He brings full-blooded expression to Consolo's stirring adjectival chains: "red, Sultanic, palmy Palermo", and a delicate touch to the lightest of images, like the laden porter who walks "with the lithe nimbleness of a man with two goldfinches perched on one finger". Consolo is not an easily accessible writer, nor does he mean to be, but the subtle texture of his writing does repay a little hard work.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Elegy to the first and foremost poet of all the Russias

Antony Wood

PUSHKIN
The Man and His Age
By Robin Edmonds
Macmillan, £30

Perhaps no other writer occupies such a dominant position in any national mind as Alexander Pushkin. He was vulgar enough at heart, and vulnerable enough in his life, to speak for every ordinary Russian, his words magical enough to enchant the intellectuals too. He took the clumsy carthorse that was the literary Russian of his time and transformed it into a Pegasus; his countrymen have never got over this miracle.

Of Pushkin's considerable output, the English speaking world is familiar only with the novel-in-verse *Eugene Onegin*. Twenty years after the complete English edition of Henri Troyat's lovingly detailed biography, it is high time for a fresh look at Pushkin.

Robin Edmonds crisply presents the well-established biographical facts. Pushkin was born in 1799, and when the mad Tsar Paul I, meeting him out in his pram, severely reproved his nanny for not taking off the baby's hat in the imperial presence, the 19th century had arrived. After three post-school years of dissipation in St Petersburg, Pushkin won national fame as a poet. He was banished from the capital for his liberal verse for six years, during which he wrote much of his oeuvre and escaped the severe consequences of any participation in the liberal Decembrist uprising at the beginning of the repressive reign of Nicholas I.

Recalled to Moscow for interview by the still-shaken Nicholas, Pushkin was "pardoned", but henceforth under constant police surveillance. After further dissipation, he married at the age of 31. His wife, Natalya (his "113th love") was a featherhead of 18: her extraordinary beauty caught the eye of the Tsar, who subsequently gave Pushkin a post that required the constant attendance of both at court balls. In a duel with the young Guards officer, Baron Georges d'Anthès, who was pursuing Natalya, Pushkin was killed at the age of 37.

The author of his new biography, one-third the length of Troyat's, points out that it is "in no sense a literary biography". Compared to its predecessors — besides Troyat's, there is Ernest J. Simmons's pioneering life of 1937 — this one often reads more like "notes towards" a life.

Edmonds fascinatingly mentions possibly the first English critical response to Pushkin, published in the *Westminster Review* in 1824 — but doesn't tell us who wrote it, what works were discussed, in whose translation. Pushkin's narrative poem, *Gavriliada*, is said merely to have been considered "blasphemous".


Pushkin by O.A. Kiprensky

In fact, the unexplained reason lay in its erotic content: a young Jewess, Mary, is ravished on the same day by the Devil, the Angel Gabriel, and the white dove of the Holy Spirit.

Edmonds refers, without explanation, to d'Anthès's "pun in poor taste about his wife and Pushkin's which Natalya afterwards related to her husband". The two wives shared a chiropodist. What d'Anthès is actually supposed to have said to Natalya, at a ball, is: "*Je sais maintenant que votre cor* [cor: a pun on corps] *est plus beau que celui de ma femme!*" In Edmonds's revised dating of events in Pushkin's last two months, this remark is important as the trigger for the fatal duel.

Edmonds shies away from the sexual and emotional side of Pushkin's life, of which often the only evidence we have is in his lyric verse, constituting a kind of emotional diary. But in this "unliterary" biography, meaningful discussion of verse is forbidden. The result is a seriously restricted view of Pushkin.

Take Amalia Riznich, to whom only five lines are devoted. One of the two great loves of Pushkin's southern exile, she inspired his most intense love lyrics, central to his achievement. Five years after her death in 1825, he addressed several of them to her on the eve of what showed every sign of being a problematic marriage. Pushkin's stress on death in much of his writing at this time hints not only at how he sensed his future, but also at something like necrophilia. Edmonds, a historian, is more interested in Pushkin's background, and much space is taken up in this short book by consideration of 19th-century Russian history at large.

This sober presentation of the broad facts of Pushkin's life, however, will serve as the only introduction to the subject in print. Another new touch is recently published Russian evidence that Natalya was a more forceful character than the bimbo she has hitherto been portrayed as. The reader with even a little Russian will welcome some original verse texts (though I stopped counting the errors the publishers have let through), with plain prose translations.

But the trouble is that it is impossible to write an "unliterary" biography of a writer whose life and work are as closely interlinked as Pushkin's. We also need to be taken through the development of Pushkin's thought, his scepticism and relativism: on the process of history, on the crushing of the individual by the state, on the nature of writing.

Pushkin treats these topics with great depth and subtlety, not only in *Eugene Onegin*, but also in the underrated historical drama, *Boris Godunov*, the great narrative poem, *The Bronze Horseman*, and the effervescent satirical story cycle, *The Tales of Belkin*. All these works make it clear that Pushkin cannot simply be labelled "Classical" or "Romantic". He is as modern as we are.

Antony Wood is a translator of Pushkin's Boris Godunov *and other works.*

Derwent May is intrigued by the life and death of Saint-Exupéry, the aeronautical author of a children's classic

Gentle giant from the sky

SAINT-EXUPÉRY
A Biography
By Stacy Schiff
Chatto & Windus, £25

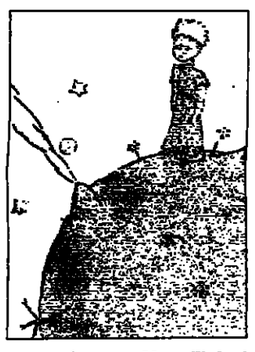
"The Earth teaches us much more about ourselves than all the books," wrote Antoine de Saint-Exupéry on the first page of *Terre des Hommes* (in English *Wind, Sand and Stars*), his lyrical account of his life as a pilot in Africa and South America in the 1920s and 30s. Does a man who said that need a book of a quarter-of-a-million words to be written about him?

Stacy Schiff has given us a biography of him that takes longer to read than a flight from Casablanca to Dakar in a biplane with a wooden propellor. She must have included every detail she found out about him "in the long course of this project", and she often repeats herself. Nevertheless, her story of this charismatic Frenchman is continuously absorbing, and in the end I think she justifies its ample proportions.

She begins dramatically with the episode in his late twenties up to which his life so far had seemed to lead, and from which the rest of it flowed. This was in 1927-28, when he was in charge of a desert station for the French airmail planes at Juby in Morocco. Here, besides taking the mails south himself, he flew out to rescue pilots who had crashed in the sands, and kept at bay hostile desert tribesmen. (Once, when he took some of them to France for the French government and showed them a waterfall, they asked as they were leaving "Aren't you going to turn it off?")

It was at Juby that, above all, he found the themes of the books he was to write — the joys of flying alone, guided not by a map but by the stars, a river or a clump of orange trees, and the love and comradeship forged between men living on their own resources and dedicated to their duty. His thoughts sometimes turned back to the comforts of the aristocratic country-house life he had known as a boy. Once when he was in hospital in Guatemala after a flying accident, he cried out in delirium for "the sheets that heal" — and later in Lyon he stumbled across an advertisement in the station, which he must have seen as a child, for "Girardot's Linen Sheets — a sovereign soother of aches, pains and wounds".

But sheets or no, once back in civilisation he did not find life so easy. By his early thirties, the private airline he had worked for was in trouble, and soon to be absorbed by the new state concern, Air France. Aeroplanes were getting faster and more difficult to fly — besides which, he was not really a very good pilot, reading and writing in the cockpit, often crashing, his body a



mass of scars. He still had employment, but the opportunities for flying grew fewer and fewer.

This giant of a man, with his round head, snub nose, thick black arcs of eyebrows and engaging smile, was very attractive to women, but the one he married, a wild, amusing Central American beauty called Consuelo Suncin, was soon unfaithful to him. He too had other love affairs, but Schiff hints at problems with impotence there, and describes how in Paris Saint-Exupéry would go out night after night looking for his wife.

He seems to have felt the same sense of duty towards her that he felt towards the safe delivery of the mails. Even when Consuelo was living apart from him, he would write to her telling her to come home early at night, as though she were his child.

But his writing took off — in spite of what he said about "all the books". His first book, the novel *Courrier Sud* (*Southern Mail*), was published by Gallimard in 1929; his next novel, *Vol de nuit* (*Night Flight*) won the Prix Fémina in 1931. *Terre des hommes* was published to great acclaim both in France and America in 1939.

However, the book for which he is best remembered is his fairy tale, illustrated by his own water-colours, *The Little Prince*. It is said to have made more money for Gallimard than any other title. By the time he brought it out, in 1943, he was living in America, hated by both the Gaullist and Vichy émigrés there because he would not give allegiance to either camp.

His story of the child prince who has come down from his tiny asteroid to Earth, and not found human beings much to his liking, still reads as movingly as ever. Its strength comes quite clearly from the simple, delicate way in which it reflects all the most telling experiences of Saint-Exupéry's own life.

The miniature volcanoes on the asteroid which the prince dutifully sweeps each day are the volcanoes Saint-Exupéry saw below him in Patagonia when he was battling in his plane against the nightmarish winds. The rose whose sulky, difficult behaviour drives the prince to leave the asteroid is unmistakably Consuelo.

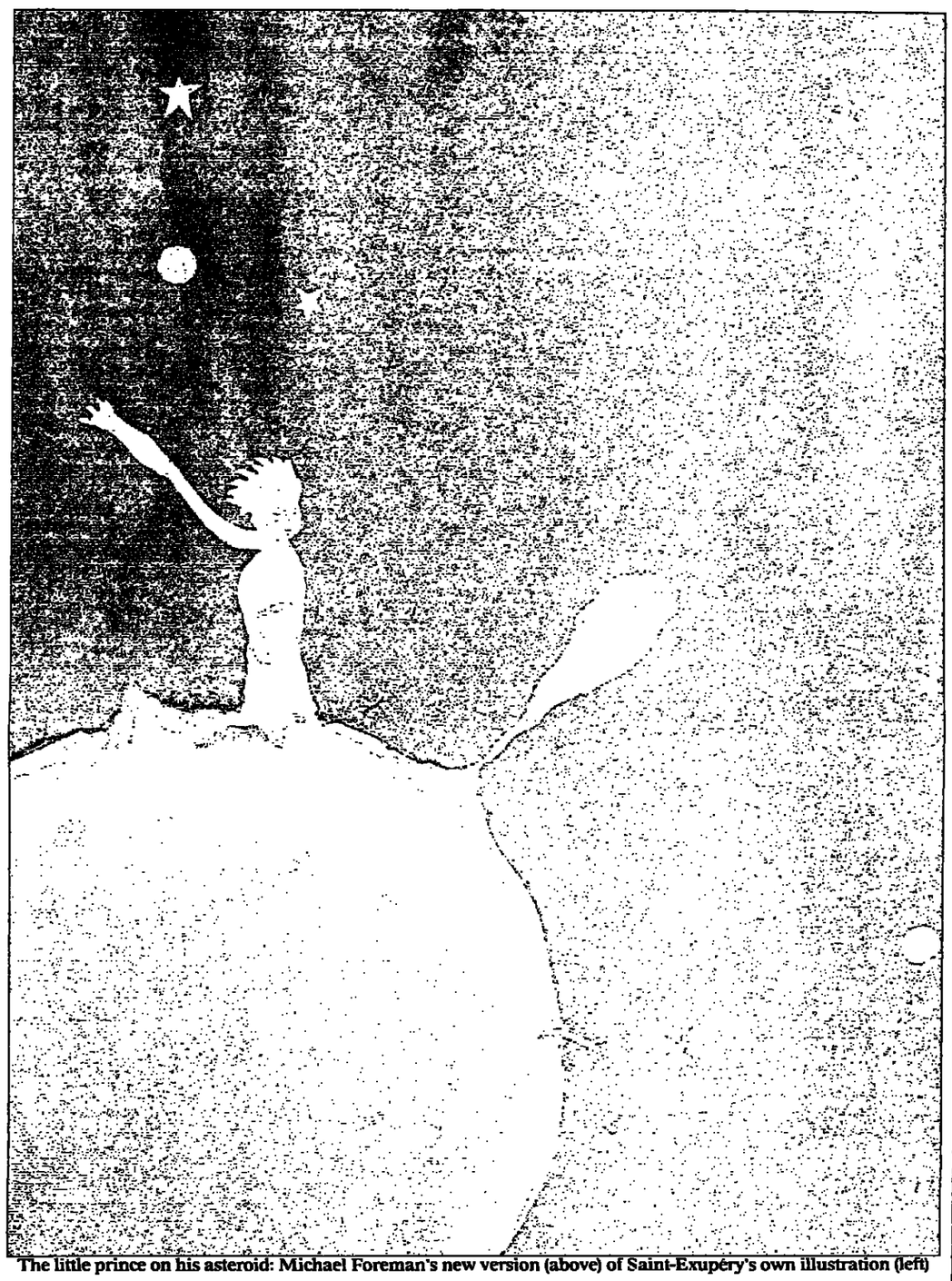
The people the prince meets are all masters of self-deception in pursuit of vain goals — which is how Saint-Exupéry regarded most men. The wittiest of these creations is the king who keeps his throne and his dignity by ordering everybody to do what they ask to do (perhaps a good policy for a conservative government).

Saint-Exupéry eventually managed to fly again — on reconnaissance with the Americans in the Mediterranean in 1944. It was on one of those missions that he crashed and disappeared, perhaps by choice.

Even that is anticipated in *The Little Prince*, when the prince gambles on getting back to his asteroid by letting the snake bite him: "He fell as gently as a tree. It made no noise, because of the sand."

Jean-Paul Sartre said that Saint-Exupéry's philosophy was drivel, but that *Terre des hommes* made him "nostalgic for a life he had not lived". The compliment one must pay to Schiff's book is that it gives one that feeling too.

There is also a new translation of **The Little Prince** by Alan Wakeman *(Pavilion, £10.99)*. The earlier translation was slightly ponderous, this one is a little too colloquial: it is hard to match Saint-Exupéry's expressive simplicity. For the new book, Michael Foreman has also produced more elaborate, highly-coloured versions of the original pictures. But although they are attractive they seem to miss the point. The original pictures were supposedly drawn by the narrator of the tale, who found the prince in the desert — and part of their humour lay precisely in the fact that he was a very simple artist.


The little prince on his asteroid: Michael Foreman's new version (above) of Saint-Exupéry's own illustration (left)

Feuds on the fringe

BLOOD feuds, beheadings, bandits, freedom-loving tribesmen, mountains: the British have always found the Caucasus romantic — although the romance generally looks better on the pages of 19th-century travel books than on the grimy, sometimes bloodstained streets of modern Caucasian cities. As the civil war in Chechenia gathers pace, the post-Soviet Caucasus is producing yet another violent drama.

But for all the western interest, there has been a dearth of good books about the region. Few western scholars or journalists have chosen to base themselves there, and those flying in from outside have often been at the mercy of whatever grotesquely biased version of events has been fed them by the side they happen to have been visiting.

This makes Suzanne Goldenberg's **Pride of Small Nations: The Caucasus and post Soviet disorder** *(Zed Books, £10)* extremely welcome. It gives due importance to history in explaining the contemporary conflicts of the region, and succeeds in describing its past concisely and objectively.

WHILE attributing due blame for these conflicts to Moscow's meddling, Goldenberg also makes clear that their ultimate roots lie in the traditions of the Caucasians themselves. It is their feuds which have given successive governments in Moscow the excuse to intervene and, since this book was written, to reimpose Russian hegemony on the whole Transcaucasus.

The ethnic statistics are in several cases out of date, but this is not Goldenberg's fault; since the last Soviet census, in 1989, vicious ethnic cleansing has swept away the population of whole regions. *Pride of Small Nations* is a mine of essential information, and every *journalist or diplomat* visiting the Caucasus should carry it as an antidote to the poison of misinformation.

ANATOL LIEVEN

Tear them for their bad verses

Robert Nye

THE OXFORD BOOK OF COMIC VERSE
Edited by John Gross
OUP, £17.99

WHO was the king who never smiled again after his son was lost in the wash? Or was it the princess who refused to grin because she wasn't amused by the Brothers Grimm? I feel like both of them. I've been studying *The Oxford Book of Comic Verse*, and if there has ever been an anthology more likely to put you off laughing then I haven't read it.

Don't blame the compiler. He is John Gross, sometime editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* and author of books on the rise and fall of the man of letters and on Shylock, so his own sense of humour can scarcely be called into question. In fact he has laboured long and hard in the Attic salt-mines and come up with a load of wit ranging from Chaucer and Skelton to Vikram Seth and Victoria Wood. All the old familiar faces are here, and most of the new familiar faeces too: Pope, Pound, Lamb, Swift, Larkin and Lear.

A decent balance is struck between poems you would *expect* to see in a bumper book of comic verse and items you might be surprised to see anywhere. Why then do I find the whole such a sad bag of sweets that even the real toffee seems to lose its taste?

Perhaps because the bag is so very sticky. In his determination to be eclectic, Gross has sought to include everybody who has written "verse that is designed to amuse" (his definition). So we find Joyce Grenfell here as well as Emily Dickinson, Clement Atlee as well as Dryden. One doesn't have to be a snob to see what is wrong with this. Dickinson and Dryden don't belong. They did not write verse that was designed to amuse. To pretend that they did, and that a volume which begins with some of the general prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* can end with a squeak of poetasters such as Clive James and Roger McGough is to reduce poetry to a common denominator lower than it deserves.

Gross seems half aware of this. He has left out Donne and Marvell, he tells us, since "it would be quite inappropriate, even demeaning, to affix the label "comic verse" to the 'The Canonization', shall we say, or 'To His Coy Mistress'." He thinks it is the wit of these works that sets them apart, but I suggest it is rather their power of poetic truth. They operate on a level that makes comic verse just silly.

Gross cannot be insensitive to this. Look at his omissions, even amongst his chosen poets. Rochester is represented solely by his poem on nothing, a piece of mere wit-work, whereas everyone knows that his real subject was sex. Similarly, the Graves selection consists of seven of the sort of jokes he used to toss off with his left hand, but not "Down, Wanton, Down" or "Lollocks", poems crucial to his unique contribution to poetry.

BLAME the idea, then. Once upon a time (1938) there was an anthology called *The Oxford Book of Light Verse*, edited by W.H. Auden. The beauty of it was that "light" did not preclude "serious". Comic verse is a second-rate (actually rather Victorian) notion, and only the second-rate (and of course the Victorians) seem comfortably at home in this unfunny book.

The fellow-travellers' foe

Radek Sikorski

SPIES AND OTHER SECRETS
By Nicholas Bethell
Viking, £18

The Cold War has claimed many a reputation and is claiming them still; of political scientists who saw the Soviet Union as a higher form of democracy, economists who predicted that Communist economies would outstrip market ones, trade unionists who thought workers' rights were better protected on the other side of the wall than in Thatcher's Britain, "peace" campaigners who wanted the West to disarm itself, journalists who happily conveyed propaganda in return for access — the list is depressingly long. Too many preferred to appease or excuse one of the most bloodthirsty regimes in the history of the world. Few had the moral courage to open themselves to the awful charge of "anti-Communism" — the ultimate insult in the salons of Manhattan and Islington.

The people who got it wrong have not yet recanted, let alone apologised. Senior common rooms and newsrooms are still full of them. It is only now that we start appreciating the courage of those who manned the barricades on the just side.

Spies and Other Secrets is a personal account of Nicholas Bethell's 30-year freelance guerrilla war against tyranny — from South Africa and Poland to Russia and Afghanistan. From the time when he arranged for the first translation of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *Cancer Ward* to be published in the West, Bethell consistently stood up for the victims. His exploits include smuggling messages to and from such Soviet dissidents as Sakharov and Bukovsky, helping Soviet defectors in Afghanistan and playing cat and mouse with Polish security police during the Solidarity strikes in 1988.

He has also had the courage to criticise his own country when it failed to live up to the standards that we expect in Britain. He is the author of *The Last Secret*, the investigation into how at the end of the Second World War, Britain and America sent hundreds of thousands of Russians and Cossacks to their deaths in Stalin's Gulag.


Lord Bethell and his wife Bryony

Bethell has my sympathy when he battles with spinelessness at the Foreign Office, whether by campaigning for a London memorial to the victims of Yalta or by protesting at the cover up of the Katyn massacre of Polish officers — finally acknowledged by Britain to be a Soviet crime only after Russia itself owned up. It was Bethell who reminded the public in 1989 of Nicholae Ceausescu's honorary knighthood and it was he who lobbied for it to be revoked. One can't help let out a cheer when, in 1988 (by which time such gestures of appeasement were no longer necessary), Bethell fails to follow the British chairman of the Anglo-Polish Round Table in toasting Communist Poland. Professional diplomatists might argue that such apparently contemptible behaviour by British officials is necessary in the national interest, but I doubt whether this is so. Britain's influence in the world is based on prestige as much as real power and displays of cynicism diminish its clout.

For all his good works, one detects a certain acidity in his writing. After years of fighting a lonely struggle, perhaps a touch of self-centredness was also bound to creep in. "The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was another part of my interest in the new cold war," begins one chapter. An invitation to the editorial offices of a Russian periodical "was a watershed in my relations with the Soviet Union". One shudders to think whether Lord Bethell's relations with the United States might suffer if this book is — God forbid — badly reviewed there. Would a nasty profile in the *New Yorker* constitute a *casus belli*? I also wonder about his grasp of events today. He continues to glorify President Lech Walesa long after he has lost the trust of the great majority of Polish people.

To those interested in how the Cold War was won, *Spies and Other Secrets* will be essential reading. Bethell ties up many loose ends by going back to countries and following up stories he had once involved himself in from afar. I had always assumed that the two Russian defectors whom he brought to Britain in 1984, and who re-defected to the Soviet Union, were shot on return. In fact, they are alive and well, and as irresponsible as ever. In the end, I put down this memoir with the bitter-sweet feeling that the nightmare of Communism might have been much shorter if, on both sides of the Berlin Wall, more men had made as courageous a stand against it as Nicholas Bethell.

Letters not privileged in second action

Muller and Another v Linsley & Mortimer (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Hoffmann and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas

[Judgment November 30]

"Without prejudice" correspondence before settlement of an action for damages brought by the plaintiffs against the first plaintiff's former employer was not privileged in the plaintiffs' subsequent action for negligence against solicitors who had advised the first plaintiff before his employer had dismissed him.

The privilege did not apply because the plaintiffs asserted in their statement of claim that the settlement was an attempt to mitigate loss caused by the alleged negligence and because the defendants did not seek to show that admissions made in the course of the correspondence were true.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Linsley & Mortimer, the defendants, a firm of solicitors, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Bell on July 28, 1993 of their appeal against the dismissal by a Queen's Bench Master of their application for discovery of documents relating to a claim for negligence brought by Paul Millford Muller and Norma Jean Muller, the first and second plaintiffs.

Mr Jules Sher, QC and Mr Peter Castle for the defendants; Mr Michael Crane, QC, for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN said the first plaintiff was a director and shareholder in a computer software company called Sagesoft Ltd. He had consulted the defendants about a dispute with the other shareholders and directors. He was concerned that the majority of the board might dismiss him from his employment and thereby activate a provision of the articles of association by which a person ceasing to be employed by the company was obliged to sell all his shares to the other shareholders at a fair value.

The solicitors advised that while still in employment he should transfer the shares to his wife. Under the articles, the board was obliged to register such a transfer if duly stamped. As the solicitors thought there was too little time to have the transfer stamped before the board met, they presented the transfer with an undertaking to have it stamped. The board rejected the transfer and purported to dismiss the first plaintiff and activate the compulsory sale.

The plaintiffs commenced proceedings against the other shareholders and the company. These were eventually settled in return for a cash payment and shares which became worth over £2 million when the company was floated. The plaintiffs had then brought an action against the defendants alleging they had been negligent in submitting an unstamped transfer to the board. It was said that if the plaintiffs had kept the original shares they would have been worth more than £4 million.

The statement of claim said that in a reasonable attempt to mitigate their damage the plaintiffs had brought the earlier proceedings and compromised them.

The principal defence was that the defendant solicitors acted reasonably and did not precipitate the dismissal of the first plaintiff, who would have been dismissed anyway. They also claimed that the conduct and settlement of the earlier action was not a resonable mitigation of damage.

The plaintiffs said they were entitled to withhold from disclosure letters and other documents leading up to the settlement.

On the summons for directions the defendants said the documents were relevant in a way which did not infringe the without prejudice privilege or fell within an exception to that privilege. They maintained in the alternative that the plaintiffs had waived the privilege either by putting in issue the reasonableness of their conduct in mitigation or by having disclosed the letter before action and the final settlement agreement.

His Lordship referred to two cases in which the underlying rationale of the without prejudice rule was analysed.

Cutts v Head ([1984] Ch 290) showed that the rule was justified first by the public policy of encouraging parties to settle out of court and second by an implied agreement arising out of what was commonly understood to be the consequence of offering or agreeing to negotiate without prejudice. In that case, which was concerned with a without prejudice offer on costs, there was no public policy element.

In *Rush & Tompkins v Greater London Council* ([1989] AC 1280) the privilege rested entirely on the ground of public policy. The public policy basis of the rule was to prevent anything said in without prejudice negotiations being relied on as an admission.

The privilege operated as an exception to the general rule on admissions, which could itself be regarded as an exception to the rule against hearsay, that the statement or conduct of a party was always admissible against him to prove any fact which was thereby expressly or impliedly asserted or admitted.

In his Lordship's judgment, the public policy aspect of the rule was not concerned with the admissibility of statements which were relevant otherwise than as admissions, that is, independently of the truth of the facts alleged to have been admitted.

The correspondence in the present case fell outside the scope of the rule. The statement of claim raised the issue whether the plaintiffs' conduct in settling their claim against the company was reasonable mitigation of damages.

The conduct consisted in the prosecution and settlement of the earlier action. The without prejudice correspondence formed part of that conduct and its relevance lay in the light it might throw on whether the plaintiffs acted reasonably in concluding the ultimate settlement and not in its admissibility to establish the truth of any express or implied admissions it might contain.

On the contrary, any use which the defendants might wish to make of such admissions was likely to take the form of asserting that they were not true and that it was therefore unreasonable to make them.

To interpret the rule in that way did not infringe the policy of encouraging settlements. It might be said that a party might be inhibited from reaching a settlement by the thought that his negotiations would be exposed to examination in order to decide whether he acted reasonably. But that was a consequence of the rule that a party entitled to an indemnity had to act reasonably to mitigate his loss.

It would, in his Lordship's judgment, be inconsistent to give the indemnifier the benefit of the rule but deny him the material necessary to make it effective. The appeal would be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE SWINTON THOMAS, agreeing, said that the plaintiffs had themselves put their own conduct in issue and waived any privilege that would attach to the without prejudice negotiations and correspondence.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT, agreeing, said that the concept of partial disclosure of privileged documents was as implausible as the curate's egg.

Production of the letter before action and of the compromise agreement impliedly waived any privilege that might exist in relation to all the other documents relating to the settlement.

Solicitors: Crutes, Newcastle upon Tyne; Baileys Shaw & Gillett.

Discretion to disclose report to parent

In re D (Minors) (Adoption reports: Confidentiality)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Kennedy

[Reasons December 1]

A court had a discretion whether or not to disclose to a natural parent a report made by a guardian *ad litem* on information given by a child upon a promise of confidentiality made by the guardian.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when giving reasons for dismissing the appeal on November 4 of the mother from the decision of Judge McNaught in Gloucester County Court on September 26, 1994, who refused her application to see specific sections of the guardian's report of September 21, 1994, which had been made for the purposes of an adoption application by the father, the former husband, and his new wife for the two boys of the family.

Mr Edward Hess for the mother; Miss Sally Porter for the father; Mr James Townend, QC, for the guardian *ad litem*.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the two sections of the guardian *ad litem's* report set out in detail the wishes and feelings of the boys and had been seen by neither the mother nor the father and his new wife.

The issue before the court was the test to be applied in the application of rule 53(2) of the Adoption Rules (SI 1984 No 265) which provided: "A party who is an individual and is referred to in a confidential report supplied to the court by ... a guardian *ad litem* may inspect for the purposes of the hearing, that part of any such report which refers to him, subject to any direction given by the court that — (a) no part of one or any of the reports shall be revealed to that party, or (b) the part of one or any of the reports referring to that party shall be revealed only to that party's legal advisers, or (c) the whole or any other part of one or any of the reports shall be revealed to that party."

The confidentiality of the report provided by the guardian *ad litem* to the court under the Adoption Rules was to be contrasted with that required in rule 4:23 of the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247) which stated that documents should not be disclosed to anyone other than the parties, legal representatives, guardian *ad litem*, Legal Aid Board or welfare officer without leave of the judge or district judge.

The report of a welfare officer or guardian *ad litem* in family proceedings was seldom withheld from the parties.

There should not be unnecessary secrecy but it was a question of balancing the provision of information against the risk to the child. That was entirely consistent with the plain words of rule 53(2).

It was a matter for the judge of first instance seised of the case to decide in the exercise of his discretion what evidence in any of the reports, whether from the adoption agency by Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 or from the guardian *ad litem* or any other evidence should or should not be disclosed to all or to any of the parties.

It was only if the judge erred in his approach to the decision or was plainly wrong in the decision to which he had come that the appellate court should intervene.

The guardian *ad litem* in the present case interviewed the children and promised them that what they told him would be in confidence and would not be disclosed to their mother.

Although in the present case with its background history it was understandable that the guardian should have made such a promise in order to gain their confidence and ascertain their real feelings about their mother, a guardian ought not to make such a promise to children even in adoption applications.

The guardian would be in danger of making a promise which he might not be able to keep if the court decided that the information should be disclosed. It also put the court in an impossible position and could act as a fetter upon the exercise of discretion under rule 53(2) whether to disclose the information to the natural parent.

Guardians had to very careful not to make promises of complete confidence. But in unusually sensitive adoption cases affecting older children it would not be unreasonable for a guardian to promise the child that he would tell the judge that the child would prefer the natural parent not to be told the details of the conversation with the guardian and any reasons which the guardian considered valid for not disclosing those details.

The limits of that partial assurance had to be made clear to the child and it would then be for the judge to decide what should happen to that information.

Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Willans, Cheltenham; Tarlings, Cheltenham; Winterbothams, Stroud.

Homeless interview not flawed

Regina v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Khatun

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment November 16]

An interview held to ascertain whether a person was intentionally homeless was not inherently flawed when it was conducted by an employee of the borough who was aware of the housing shortage in the borough.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal brought by Tower Hamlets London Borough Council against the decision of Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on September 30, 1993 when he quashed the decision of Tower Hamlets London Borough Council that Mrs Shafia Khatun was intentionally homeless.

Mr Ashley Underwood for Tower Hamlets; Mr David Watkinson and Miss Alison Grief for Mrs Khatun.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that Sir Louis Blom-Cooper had made a number of criticisms of the way in which Mrs Khatun had been interviewed and concluded "...the enquiry process was invalidated from the outset, unredeemed in its progress towards the inevitable conclusion that the applicant was intentionally homeless and forfeited the right to have permanent accommodation secured..."

It was to be observed that until judgment no complaint had been made by Mrs Khatun or on her behalf as to the manner in which the interviews had been conducted, save in one respect.

In the judge's opinion the interview was inherently flawed because it was conducted by someone who was aware of the housing shortage in the borough and was an employee of the borough. Hence his suggestion that an adviser or counsellor should be invited to the present and that the interviewer should come from outside the authority.

It seemed to his Lordship that it was for the local authority, and not the courts, to determine how the necessary enquiries were made. Section 71 of the Housing Act 1985 made it clear that regard had to be had to *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* ([1991] 3rd edition).

But the resources of the authority were finite and it was for them to decide who should conduct the interviews and what questions should be asked to enable the authority to carry out its statutory function under section 62.

It was important to underline that in accordance with the *Code* it was the duty of the interviewer to act sympathetically. But there would be occasions when searching questions had to be asked. Furthermore, there would be cases where in fairness to the applicant it would be appropriate to point out possible weaknesses in his case so that the applicant's responses could be recorded.

The court was only entitled to intervene if there was reason to think that by reason of the style of questioning, the applicant was inhibited from developing his case or was prevented from putting forward facts which might assist the application. That was not the case here and the appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Mr R. A. Joy, Tower Hamlets; Michaels & Co, Stepney.

Power to order non-party to pay costs of action

McFarlane v E. E. Caledonia Ltd

Before Mr Justice Longmore

[Judgment November 11]

The court could order a non-party to pay the costs of the successful defendant in an action where that non-party had maintained the action of an unsuccessful plaintiff in an agreement which had not allowed for the payment of the successful defendant's costs.

Mr Justice Longmore so held in the Queen's Bench Division when, in a judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, he ordered that Quantum Claims Compensation Specialists Ltd, a company established in Scotland in 1988 as a vehicle for handling personal injury claims on a contingency fee basis, should pay the taxed costs of the defendant, E. E. Caledonia Ltd, formerly Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Ltd, the successful defendant in an action brought by the plaintiff, Mr Francis McFarlane, a domiciled Scotsman, who had no means of financing litigation and who did not apply for legal aid but retained the services of Quantum to process his claim.

The plaintiff, who was at the material time employed as a painter by Wood Group Engineering (Offshore) Ltd on the Piper Alpha platform which was owned by the defendant, claimed damages for psychiatric injury in the Piper Alpha disaster.

By consent it was ordered that a preliminary issue be tried as to whether Caledonia owed the plaintiff a duty of care. Mr Justice Smith had found for the plaintiff but that order was reversed by the Court of Appeal (*The Times* September 30, 1993). The plaintiff's petition for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was dismissed on February 10, 1994.

In 1990 Caledonia had obtained an injunction restraining Mr McFarlane from continuing with an action which he had brought in Texas and the Queen's Bench Division ordered the costs of that application to be paid by him.

Mr Jonathan Waite for Quantum; Mr Alistair Schaff for E. E. Caledonia.

MR JUSTICE LONGMORE said that there was no agreement between the maintainer of the action and the plaintiff that the maintainer should pay the costs of the successful adverse party.

The fact that Quantum had not accepted liability for the successful adverse party's costs tainted their contract with the plaintiff with illegality as a matter of English law, quite apart from the additional illegality which arose from the champertous nature of the agreement.

That absence of any agreement to pay the adverse party's legal costs was the more important illegality in the context of the defendant's summons. The absence of any such agreement would furnish a cogent reason why in the exercise of the court's discretion, an order should be made against Quantum to pay the defendant's costs.

Further, his Lordship said that there was no legal principle which the court could utilise, other than palm tree justice, to assess the proportion of costs which it would be appropriate for Quantum to pay; accordingly, his Lordship declined to make a proportional costs order.

Solicitors: Levinson Gray; Ince & Co.

Guarantee within terms of Act

Ashley v Sutton London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment November 7]

A guarantee to refund the purchase price of a book supplied by mail order which contained instructions on a system to succeed at fixed-odds gambling was a statement as to the nature of the provision of services within the meaning of section 14 of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when dismissing an appeal of James Ashley of the William King partnership by way of case stated from his conviction by Wallington Justices on March 2, 1994 of 10 charges of recklessly making statements that were false as to the nature of services provided in the course of a trade or business, namely that his gambling system had a 90-day money back guarantee, contrary to section 14(1) of the 1968 Act.

Mr Robert O'Sullivan for Mr Ashley; Mr Neil Moore for Sutton.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that Mr O'Sullivan contended that Mr Ashley had supplied books which were goods and repayment of the purchase price was not the provision of a service.

Mr Moore had submitted that as Mr Ashley was offering the public his strategy to succeed at fixed-odds gambling, the guarantee of a refund was a statement as to the nature of a service. He further submitted that service could be broadly defined as "doing something for someone": see *Dirons Ltd v Roberts* ([1984] 148 JP 513) and referred to section 1(2) of the Theft Act 1968. Mr Ashley had conferred a benefit, namely the use of a strategy, by doing an act, namely providing a book, on the understanding that the benefit would be paid for.

In his Lordship's judgment the present case was one in which there might have been both goods and services provided. But it seemed that it was necessary to look at the essential nature of the transaction and see what in reality was provided to the customer.

The grossly inflated price reflected the cost of the information and not of the book which was simply the means by which the information was imparted. There was also the extravagant language of the mailshot and the fact that money would be returned if the gambling strategy was not satisfactory to the purchaser.

There was assistance from comparison with the purchase of a ticket for a train journey or for the theatre which gave access to a service. The fundamental question was: what was the purchaser buying?

In his Lordship's judgment the book itself was of no interest. What the customer wanted was the information in it. There might have been both goods and services provided but for present purposes that was not material. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitors: Solnick & Co, Chiswick; Mr William Barton, Sutton.

Council's duty over child's home

Regina v Kingswood Borough Council, Ex parte Smith-Morse

Before Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

[Judgment November 30]

Where a homeless applicant was to be assessed for priority need on the basis of a dependent child, a local authority's duty was to look at the residence of the child in relation to the applicant, irrespective of residence also being with the other parent. Moreover, the authority had to look not only at the past and present arrangements for the child's residence with the applicant but also at future plans.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when granting an application for judicial review by Andrew Smith-Morse and quashing a decision of Kingswood Borough Council of June 8, 1994 that he was not in priority need for housing.

Mr Leslie Thomas for the applicant; Mr Graham Stoker for Kingswood.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the applicant was divorced with one son who lived with him for part of the week. By section 59(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1985 a person with whom dependent children resided or might reasonably be expected to reside had priority need.

The decision letter had qualified the word "residence" with the word "main", which was not merely unhelpful but misapplied the law because it suggested that the local authority was making a comparison between the dependent child's pattern of life with his mother whereas the statute required it to focus on residence of the child with the applicant.

It was also clear that the authority had only looked at half of its dual function under that section and an authority could not be absolved from satisfying itself whether the child might reasonably be expected to reside with the applicant in the future.

It was not a burdensome function. All that was required was that the authority address its mind to the issue, posing a straightforward question, and then state that it had done so in its decision letter.

Solicitors: Bobbets Mackan, Bristol; Mr Alan Robertson, Kingswood.

THE TIMES Commuter Challenge

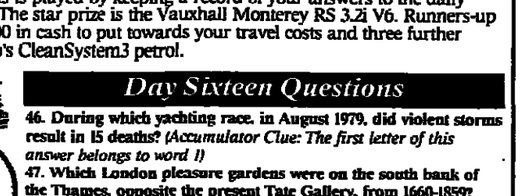
in association with Vauxhall Monterey

The Times Commuter Challenge offers you the chance to win a superb Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 – a smooth, high-class luxury saloon with rugged off-road capabilities, worth £22,000.

The Daily Game – every day for 17 days we are publishing three questions. Answer the three daily questions correctly and you could win a Philips rechargeable portable CD player or one of five runners-up prizes of Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopaedia of Britain*. By keeping a record of your answers, you can also enter our weekly and accumulator games.

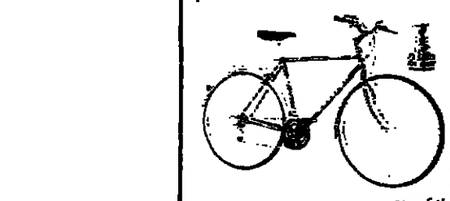
The Weekly Game – the daily questions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays give clues and include a question on cycling. When you have answers for the three cycling questions phone the weekly prize line printed on Friday for a chance to win one of three Raleigh cycles a week.

The Accumulator Game – this is played by keeping a record of your answers to the daily questions (full details below). The star prize is the Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6. Runners-up prizes include one prize of £500 in cash to put towards your travel costs and three further prizes of £100 worth of Texaco's CleanSystem3 petrol.



ACCUMULATOR PRIZES Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 worth £22,000. Travel with imposing luxury in Vauxhall's latest addition to the leisure vehicle market. The Monterey RS 3.2i V6's three-door, off-road body styling is ideal for commuting – not only does it deliver the space to travel in comfort, it also has a very high driving position to give you a commanding view of the road ahead. One prize of £500 cash and three prizes of £100 worth of Texaco's new CleanSystem3 petrol will go to four runners-up.

Day Sixteen Questions



46. During which yachting race, in August 1979, did violent storms result in 15 deaths? *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 1)*

47. Which London pleasure gardens were on the south bank of the Thames, opposite the present Tate Gallery, from 1660-1859? *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 2)*

48. Which was the world's first custom-built motor racing circuit, when it opened in Surrey in 1907? *(Accumulator Clue: The first letter of this answer belongs to word 9)*



Phone 0891 66 55 98 before midnight tonight for the daily prize and 0839 44 45 64 before midnight on Tuesday for this week's weekly prize. Leave your answers, followed by your name, address and daytime phone number. Winners will be selected at random after the lines close. Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times.

The answers to these questions, and all those appearing in Commuter Challenge, can be found in the new updated edition of Bamber Gascoigne's Encyclopaedia of Britain (Macmillan, £39.95).

WEEKLY PRIZES *Raleigh Pioneer Jaguar cycles.*

DAILY PRIZES *Philips lightweight rechargeable CD player model AZ6823 and five encyclopaedias.*

THE ACCUMULATOR GAME

Phone in your answers to today's questions, and then take the first letter of each answer and play the accumulator game. Every day, as you answer the questions you will be gathering the first letter of each answer to fill in the accumulator grid. We will tell you which word each letter belongs to in the grid but it is up to you to put all the letters in order to form each word at the end of the game. Having worked out all the words they will form another question. Once you know the answer to this question, phone in your answer and you could win a Vauxhall Monterey RS 3.2i V6 or a runners-up prize. In the accumulator game, where the answer to a question requires a name, the first letter of the surname applies.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1994-95

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by King's College London (hereinafter called "the College") and the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals (hereinafter called "the Schools") for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter called "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:-

1. To provide for the Schools and the College to be united and for the dissolution of the Schools and the Council of Governors of the Schools;
2. To provide for the transfer to the College of all property, rights and privileges, and all debts and obligations, of the Schools;
3. To provide for the constitution of a body to be known as the Continuing Trustees of the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals and for certain property not to be used otherwise than for certain purposes without the consent of the Continuing Trustees;
4. To enact provisions relating to existing agreements, appointments, awards, contracts, deeds, etc., and the construction of bequests in favour of or connected with the Schools;
5. To provide for various powers or rights of the Schools to appoint or nominate members of certain bodies to be transferred to the College;
6. To provide for the medical and dental school of the College to be known as Guy's, King's College and St. Thomas's Hospitals' Medical and Dental School and for the dissolution of the Delegacy of King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry;
7. To provide for repeal of and amendment to certain provisions of the King's College London Act 1983 and the United Medical and Dental Schools Act 1990 and for amendment to the Statutes of the College;

On and after the 2nd December 1994 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1.00 per copy at the offices of the Secretary, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St.Thomas's Hospital, Medical School Office, First Floor, North Wing, St. Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH and of the College Secretary, King's College London, Comwall House Annex, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TX and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1995, if the Bill originates in the House of Lords or 30th January 1995, if the Bill originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 1st day of December 1994

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Queen Annes Chambers
3 Dean Farrar Street
Westminster
London SW1H 9JX

Parliamentary Agents.

LEGAL NOTICES

ALLEN PENTEK LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 5FF on 19th December 1994 at 12.00am for the purposes provided for in Section 98 of sec. A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 5FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED THIS 5TH DECEMBER 1994
Mr E Pentek
Director.

BROWN CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at: The Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London EC2M 7QN on Friday 16th December 1994 at 3.00 p.m. for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
DATED 8 December 1994
By order of the Board
G.A. FISHER
Director.

FORM 3.1A
Rule 3.2 Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
DECORATIVE STAINED GLASS LIMITED
Registered Number 1754432
Nature of Business: Manufacturers of decorative glass products
Trade Classification: 11
Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 29 November 1994
Name of person appointing administrative receivers: Bank of Scotland
Peter Christopher Dean, Timothy Alan Ashham, office holder nos 3299 & 9491
Joint Administrative Receivers
Neville Russell
90 St. Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5UB

IFTSH LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named company will be held at: Haines Watts, 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on 14th December 1994 at 2.30 p.m. for the purposes mentioned in sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at 4-8 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4LU on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
BY Order of the JOINT LIQUIDATORS
DATED 1 December 1994
J C HEATH
Joint Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 007106 of 1994
IN THE MATTER OF MICROVITEC PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 30th November 1994 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company by £2,859,216 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 1st December 1994.
Dated this 6th day of December 1994
Pinsent & Co
3 Colmore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6BH
Ref: RJJ/AEG
Solicitors for the above named Company.

No. 648 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF HEDLAM GROUP plc
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Birmingham dated 21st November 1994 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 30th November 1994.
Dated this 6th day of December 1994
Eversheds Wells & Hind
10 Newall Street
Birmingham
B3 3LX
Solicitors for the above named Company
Ref: DCL/105
Tel: 021.233.2001

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
ARBY'S RESTAURANTS (UK) LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address:
24 The Haymarket, London SW1Y 4DG
Company Number 2696586
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 30 November 1994 David Llewellyn Morgan was appointed liquidator of the above named company by the creditors' voluntary winding up.
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference-PDP/LAL
Touche Ross & Co
PO Box 810
Cedric House
8-9 East Harding Street
London EC4A 3AS

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES HOUSE
NO: 00120035727 of 1994
LONDON & CONTINENTAL ASSOCIATES LIMITED
- IN LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Alan Redvers Price and Nicholas Johan Miller of Messrs Casson Beckman & Partners, Hobson House, 155 Cower Street, London WC1E 6BJ were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company on 8 September 1994.
Dated this 16th day of November 1994
A R PRICE, N J MILLER
JOINT LIQUIDATORS

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
AIRSTYLE TRAVEL LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Frances, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Frances Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on 28th November 1994.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Eric Pepat at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Frances
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
BINGHAM INVESTMENTS LIMITED
IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Frances, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Frances Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on 22nd December 1994.
All creditor are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Eric Pepat at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Frances
Liquidator

To former employees of the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank plc and Campbell Neill & Co Ltd. and Stock Group (London) Ltd formerly known as Moore Gowrie Financial Services Ltd.
The BCMB Pension Plan is due to be wound up shortly.
The Trustees of the Plan are trying to contact all the beneficiaries to ensure that they are all aware of the situation and who to contact regarding their benefits.
If you think you may be entitled to benefits, please contact the Plan administrator on Bristol (0117) 929 0941.

PUBLIC NOTICES

H.M. Land Registry
Lost Certificates
It is proposed to issue a new Certificate to replace the one described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one, should at once notify The Croydon District Land Registry of Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon CR9 2LE.
Charge Certificate Freehold Title No SGL5 169996, 11 Hamsel Road, Saddlesworth, Kent.
Proprietor: Household Mortgage Corporation Plc of PO Box 70, HMC House, Saltfield Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.
H.M. Land Registry
Lost Certificates
It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the one described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Durham District Land Registry of Seldom House, Wheatlands Way, Pity Me, Durham DH1 5GJ.
Land Certificate Freehold Title No. SY318761, 141-151 Old Nursery, Broughton Road, Guildford, Surrey.
Proprietor: West Lancashire Investments Limited of 26 Park Road, St Annes-on-the-Sea, Lancs FY8 1EF.

PUBLIC NOTICES

City of London School

The Board of Governors of the City of London School are pleased to announce the appointment of

Mr Roger Michael Dancey,

Headmaster of King Edward VI, Camp Hill School for Boys, Birmingham, to be Headmaster of the City of London School from September 1995 when the present headmaster, Mr Bryan Bass retires.

BRASSELL PAULINE BRASSELL SPINSTER late of Ilford, Essex died there on 26th April 1994 (Estate about £11,000)
BRISCOE DOREEN MARY BRISCOE SPINSTER late of Hove, East Sussex died there on 23 January 1994 (Estate about £50,000)
CANNINGS ALEXANDER DONALD CANNINGS late of Barking, Essex died there on 4th November 1992 (Estate about £100,000)
EBORALL RICHARD WILLIAM GRIFFIN EBORALL O/W WILLIAM RICHARD EBORALL late of Whetstone, London N20 died at Barnet on 1st June 1994 (Estate about £30,000)
IRVING WILFRED RAYMOND IRVING late of Middlesborough, Cleveland died there on 2nd April 1993 (Estate about £24,000)
JONES ELLEN LLOYD JONES SPINSTER late of Harlech, Gwynedd died at Talsarnau, Gwynedd on 21st April 1994 (Estate about £12,000)
McLACHLAN ALEXANDER McLACHLAN late of Bethel Green E3 died Smithfield, London EC1A on 20th July 1994 (Estate about £20,000)
MARSHALL JOHN MARSHALL late of Islington, London N5 died there on 21st September 1993 (Estate about £11,000)
SHAW nee FORD OLIVE LILIAN GLADYS SHAW O/W GLADYS LILIAN SHAW nee FORD WIDOW late of Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester died there on 16th October 1992 (Estate about £6,100)
SMITH WILLIAM SMITH O/W WILLIAM CYRIL SMITH O/W CYRIL WILLIAM SMITH late of Muswell Hill, London N10 died there on 28th October 1993 (Estate about £13,000)
STATON MARION HANNAH STATON SPINSTER late of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire died at Newcastle under Lyme on 23rd November 1993 (Estate about £10,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.
BULL STANLEY GEORGE BULL late of Bradley, Northamptonshire died at Banbury, Oxfordshire on 28th October 1993 (Estate about £6,000)
The widow and kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344 OR FAX: 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الاصل

Board to rule on overseas players

Stewart carrying on his fight for higher standards



Simon Wilde meets a reformer who believes English cricket is too soft for its own good health

Michael Atherton would have been willing to provide some tart remarks: so, too, would many a plain-speaking Australian, but none is in a position to contribute. But those who believe the renaissance of English cricket will not occur until standards here are raised dramatically need not fear. Their cause has a champion at the winter meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, which concludes today.

Micky Stewart, the former England manager, has never been one to shy away from an unpleasant thought, or avoid drawing an awkward conclusion, particularly not with the prospect of another Ashes campaign biting the dust, and his voice alone will ensure that the gathering at Lord's does not embrace the complacency that many fear it might.

On what is the most contentious issue on the agenda, overseas players, Stewart shares the view expressed by Atherton before he left for Australia that the time may have come to remove "foreigners" from county ranks. While acknowledging that their influence is far from totally malign, he believes that in their absence some English cricketers may mature.

"I can't see Australian state sides or West Indian islands jumping over each other to sign English players, but we certainly run about trying to sign theirs," he said. "I want to see English players accept the responsibility of being the best player in the club and playing accordingly, not being the second-best and leaving it to somebody else to do.

"In the Fifties, Peter May was the best batsman at Surrey and Fred Trueman the best bowler at Yorkshire. That was important for England."

Following a proposal by Lancashire last summer, the counties agreed not to make any long-term commitments to overseas players until the issue was fully investigated, a process that will be completed today.

Stewart, 62, who is attending the winter meeting as the National Cricket Association's director of coaching, has spent much of his administrative career, including six years as England manager, from 1986 to 1992, studying ways to improve the English game. Despite a number of changes in recent years — such as the transition to a four-day championship — he still holds it in fairly low regard. "I've never agreed with the way the game's been in this country, right from top to bottom."

Speaking at his office at Lord's, Stewart said that one of the next steps may be to introduce two divisions to the championship, an idea that has the support of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, and may be discussed at Lord's. Another might be the creation of an English cricket academy, set up on the lines of the Australian model, which is much-admired by Stewart and has assisted two members of the England party in Australia, Craig White and Martin McCague.

Stewart's main concern is that too much young English talent is wasted for want of the right opportunity. "Competitively, an 18-year-old English cricketer is about the equal of an Australian at the age of 14½, because ever since the Australian was 11 or 12 he has had to be among the best 30 in his area to get a game.

"Here, even if you haven't got an ounce of cricketing ability in your body you can get a game every day of the week. Our talented 18-year-olds have probably played 65 per cent of their cricket at levels below their ability.

"In Australia, people are much more aware of their individual performances if they're ambitious. Here, a lot of people hide behind the team structure, have a fear of failure and don't like to be judged. We have to be mentally tougher. It's been too soft."

Stewart believes there are a few encouraging signs. The national under-19 team is taking on a younger character, as those with promise emerge earlier through a newly streamlined youth system. Last summer the side contained one player eligible at under-15 level (Owais Shah, of Middlesex), one at under-16 level (David Sales, of Northamptonshire) and several from the under-17s.

Stewart defended the importance that he and Graham Gooch, as captain, placed on fitness when they were in charge of the England team. "All we did is what the leading Australians, South Africans, New Zealanders and West Indians have ever done, and that is to aim to get your general fitness to its highest possible level, so that the skill you have produces the best results.

"In 1988, with the possible exception of India, we were the least fit, least agile, least mobile, least strong of all the other nations we played against. Now, we are better, but there is still a lot of work to do."

Gooch was recently reported as saying that his England captaincy methods appeared to have "gone out of fashion".

JOHN POTTER



Paul Nixon leads the line in training for England A at Lilleshall yesterday

Wells plans to play it tough

THE English have always been slow to change. A country that has had only one revolution in its history does not rush into tinkering with something as serious as cricket but even here there is a feeling that, after ten years of being shown the art by everyone from Australia to France, it is time we learnt how to win (Simon Wilde writes).

The England A team is making a brave effort. Yesterday the party that will tour India and Bangladesh for two months from December 28 completed its third and final session at Lilleshall. On Saturday it will leave for a week of further preparations in Málaga.

Alan Wells, the captain, said that he had under him "very talented, very ambitious" players. Phil Neale, the team manager, said: "The talent in England is there. What we need to do is raise our levels of concentration and improve our mental toughness. In South Africa last winter, we played it hard and tough like West Indies and Australia do, and we will do so again."

One or two of the party, such as Mark Ramprakash, the vice-captain, and Ian Salisbury, have good need of a touch of steel, having already played for England at an early age.

Wells yesterday defended Salisbury, whom he has sought to motivate for Sussex in a variety of ways. "Ian can definitely come through again," he said. "With the help of Norman Gifford and Eddie Hemmings, he has become more disciplined. He does not try to get batsmen out with every ball and bowls better as a result."

Success in the three "Tests" in India may come too late for one person, Patrick Whittingdale, whose city firm sponsors the sessions at Lilleshall, is considering ending his support when his four-year contract expires next autumn. "Change is slow in coming in English cricket," he said yesterday.

You can understand how he feels. Asked how he intended to play it in India, Wells replied: "I will be positive, but obviously not at the expense of defeat." He meant to say victory, but the English find it easier getting their tongue around defeat.

Brandes forced out of tour by back injury

ZIMBABWE suffered a serious setback yesterday when Eddo Brandes, their experienced fast bowler, was ruled out of the rest of their tour to Australia by a back injury. Brandes damaged his lower back during training in Perth last weekend and was sent to see a specialist. Tests have shown that he has damaged a disc.

The team manager, Chris Seager, said Brandes would fly home today and a replacement, likely to be Brian Strang, would be sent for.

The Zimbabwean party has had bad luck with injuries since the start of the tour. It is unable to field a fully fit XI and the experienced batsman, David Houghton, and the fast bowler, Heath Streak, played in the World Series Cup game against Australia today despite each having broken bones in a hand.

The Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower, said his side did not fear Shane Warne after their initial exposure to him last Friday.

"He's a brilliant bowler, he's going to take wickets and he's not going to go for that many runs," Flower said. "But I don't think among the players that there's any myth surrounding him."

Warne took the man-of-the-match award after returning figures of two for 27 from ten overs as Australia struggled to beat Zimbabwe by two wickets in the first encounter between the sides.

Shaw and Callard put on stand-by

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SIMON SHAW, one of the Barbarian heroes against the South Africans last weekend, is poised to win his first England cap against Canada at Twickenham on Saturday. The Bristol lock joined the squad in training at Richmond yesterday and will replace Martin Johnson if the Leicester player is forced to withdraw today.

Johnson was only one of two English problems: a strained hamstring while doing track work last week did not prevent him training at Richmond, nor did a sore Achilles tendon hinder Paul Hull, the Bristol full back, but Jack Rowell, the team manager, was sufficiently pessimistic to describe Johnson as "dicey", though he is more hopeful that Hull will come through today's fitness test, as is the player himself.

Jonathan Callard, capped three times last season, will play should Hull withdraw and, after his display in Dublin last Saturday, there must be a temptation for the England management to make assurance doubly sure and field the 21-year-old Shaw anyway. "He has the physical attributes and I have a lot of confidence in him," Rowell said. "Subject to experience, he is going to be a star player.

"We see him as probably the best cover for the middle or front of the lineout at the moment, and that's not forgetting Nigel Redman. I think Shaw deserves a chance this side of Christmas to show what he can do."

It is ironical that England should run into injury problems at a time designated for rest. Several of the team will not have played for five weeks by Saturday, which has allowed them time for quality training but may leave them slightly ring-rusty against a Canadian side eager to improve on its showing against England in 1992.

The Canada team will be named today after three defeats, against Italy A, the Combined Services, and, on Tuesday at Bath, England's emerging players, who scored four tries to none in winning 34-6. Gareth Rees, the Canadians' leading scorer, finished the University match with a damaged finger and calf muscle but is expected to play.

After Saturday England will finalise their training squad to spend the new year in Lanzarote and nominate a 40-strong preliminary World Cup party. The Rugby World Cup directors now suggest that the eight countries involved in the knockout stages will all be based at altitude in Johannesburg and will travel to match venues — as opposed to England's expectation that, so long as they kept winning, they would remain based in Durban at sea level for all but the final days.



Callard: ready to play

SPORT IN BRIEF

Lu Bin banned for two years

THE Chinese world champion, Lu Bin, has been suspended from all competition for two years after a positive drugs test, the International Swimming Federation (Fina) chairman, Gunnar Werner, said yesterday. Werner said Lu had returned a positive result for the anabolic steroid, dehydrotestosterone, in an out-of-competition test on September 30, shortly before the Asian Games. "She has been suspended for two years," Werner said.

Lu won four gold and two silver medals at the Games and set a world record for the 200 metres individual medley. At the world championships in Rome last September, she won the 200 metres individual medley title plus two relay gold medals and finished runner-up in the 100 metres and 200 metres freestyle events. Last Saturday, the Olympic Council of Asia stripped Lu and ten other Chinese of their Asian Games medals after confirming they had tested positive for dehydrotestosterone. Seven of the 11 were swimmers.

Talks break down

ICE HOCKEY: Talks to resolve the dispute that has prevented the National Hockey League (NHL) season starting have broken down after the owners proposed to implement a "salary tax". Gary Bettman, the NHL commissioner, suggested imposing the tax on teams with payrolls higher than $18 million. "The season is in dire jeopardy," Bob Goodenow, executive director of the NHL Players' Association, said after the meeting ended. "Negotiations were going well, with the sides close on most issues, before the owners brought up the tax proposal." He said talks would not resume unless the proposal is dropped. One of the owners, Cliff Fletcher, of the Toronto Maple Leafs, said: "It's probably the most disappointing day of my career."

Manly sign Gibbs

RUGBY LEAGUE: Scott Gibbs has agreed to play for Manly next summer. The former British Isles, Wales and Swansea rugby union centre, who has made a huge impact since moving to St Helens in April, will join the Australian side in May. "It is another feather in my cap," Gibbs, 23, said. "Not everyone has the opportunity to play in the Winfield Cup, and with Manly being coached by Bobby Fulton [the Australia coach] I hope to learn a lot from him and come back a better player. I see this as a great chance to play with and against some of the best in the world."

Italian runs into trouble

YACHTING: Neal Petersen, of South Africa, was continuing the struggle to save himself and his yacht, after being knocked down and dismasted in the Southern Ocean on Tuesday, as another of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race competitors sent out a distress signal yesterday. Simone Bianchetti, who has been plagued by leaks in his Italian yacht, *Town of Cervia*, since the start of the race from Charleston, and who has already returned to Cape Town once to make repairs, made the call for help but later called off the rescue operation, saying he could reach Simonstown.

Chinese imports

TABLE TENNIS: Two more Chinese players, Liu Fei and Huo Ji Rong, have been signed by the British League champions, BFL Grove, bringing to five the number of players from China on the books of the ambitious Shropshire club. Liu is a member of his country's national squad and should enhance his new club's chances of making an increasingly strong challenge in the European Cup competition. The two newcomers will stay in Market Drayton for an initial period of six months and, if all goes well, could sign contracts for a longer period.

Thompson set to return

BOXING: Carl Thompson, of Manchester, who was stripped of his European cruiserweight title when he was forced to withdraw from a scheduled defence against Norbert Ekassi, of France, this month because of a hand injury, is to get an early chance to regain the crown. Ironically, Thompson will contest the championship because of an elbow injury sustained by the former World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion, Dennis Andries, of Hackney, who was to have met Ekassi for the vacant title. The Thompson-Ekassi bout must take place before January 31.

SPORTS LETTERS

LTA invests for brighter future

From Ms Fiona Strongman

Sir, The LTA, local authorities and Jeremy Bates, among others, were targets for Mr Clive Ashford (Sports Letters, December 1), but he can be reassured that the progress he and we desire is already under way. The lack of facilities is being addressed with an investment of some £100 million being generated through the LTA's Facilities Strategy by 1997.

Over the past eight years 32 public tennis centres have been opened through the Indoor Tennis Initiative. Many of these centres are part of multi-discipline leisure complexes, ensuring maximum accessibility beyond those with a prior interest in tennis. The latest, in Aberdeen, opens this week and a further six are under construction. So far this programme has realised 125 outdoor courts and, more important, 137 indoor, trebling the number of indoor courts in the country to 637.

Equally encouraging is the fact that local authorities, who might have shunned tennis in the past, are now increasingly keen to include and promote the sport as an integral part of their leisure facilities. This is a step in the right direction and it must continue at an affordable price. The £12 per hour quoted by Mr Ashford is misleading in that it is more likely to be the maximum adult indoor rate, not the average rate. Junior rates are often no more than £2 per hour, while squad sessions can be as little as 50p per individual.

Recently, the LTA and a local newspaper joined forces to run a Tennis Talent Hunt aimed at bringing youngsters into the sport. The scheme linked four centres (Liverpool, Wirral, Arfon and Wrexham) and offered free coaching and skills sessions for children aged from five to 14.

By 1997 it is estimated that 40 per cent of the country's population will have an indoor tennis centre within 20 minutes' drive. If we can be accused of not starting early enough, we can hardly be criticised for doing our utmost to catch up.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA STRONGMAN,
Marketing Manager,
The Lawn Tennis Association,
The Queen's Club,
West Kensington, W14.

Golfing gulf

From Mr Donald McLeod

Sir, The VAT issue in golf, with club members demanding their EC-sponsored VAT refund and club managements determined to hang on to the money, has summarised more than anything else could the growing gulf between the ordinary member and those they have nominated to order their club's affairs.

Morally, the old man at the bar argues, the member paid it, therefore he is entitled to it back. Not so, says the newly formed "Management Committee", it is ours.

The VAT authorities, ducking out of their obligations, moral and otherwise, decided that the VAT refund belongs to the club. So, says the Management Committee chairman, we will tell you what we propose to do with your money. Such is life in 1990s golf in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD McLEOD,
31 Kenwood Drive,
Walton on Thames, Surrey.

Specialist required

From Mr Dominic Judd

Sir, Last Saturday the Barbarians selected on the open side of the scrum against South Africa a natural No 7, Neil Back, who was one of the outstanding players on the field against one of the top rugby nations. The England selectors have argued that they require, in this position, a player who is physically dominant if they are going to succeed at the highest level.

The three positions at the rear of the scrum require different skills and a team cannot move a player from No 8 to the open side and expect him to perform an alien role. The two primary roles of the open side are that he is the first player to the breakdown to ensure retention of the ball and to act as a link between forwards and backs. The players that England have used recently, who have not been natural open sides, have failed to perform these two crucial roles.

Big, powerful men are required in the back row to punch holes in opposition defences, but if England are to win the World Cup next year, they need a natural No 7 who excels in the areas mentioned above. England have players at No 8 and No 6 who have the power to make dents in opposition midfields but do not seem prepared to select a natural No 7 to complete all the skills required by a back row. As the World Cup will be played on hard pitches, it would be suicidal to start without such a player.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC JUDD,
34 Rannoch Road, W6.

Women need protection from rugby injuries

From Miss S. J. Fitch

Sir, Until eight weeks ago, I had the attitude to rugby: "If men can do it, why can't women?" A serious kidney injury in the second match of the season, however, has forced me to change my views.

The injury, which put me in hospital for ten days and convalescence for four months, was sustained whilst playing for my university and has resulted in my missing the majority of the first term's study.

At my university, and, I am sure, at many others around the country, the women's rugby team is coached and managed by men from the adjacent men's club and by the women themselves. Whilst the men are skilful, how can they be expected to know about the physiological differences between men and women, and how are women supposed to play one of the most physically dangerous games at university without the skill and knowledge required about how to protect themselves?

At university, where many women are trying the sport for the first time, the level of coaching and general background knowledge about the game should be greatly updated, if more serious injuries are not to occur. As university clubs are affiliated to the Rugby Football Union, I would like to see that organisation take responsibility to ensure that women playing at this level are protected.

I was lucky — even though I cannot play any contact sports again, there are many other sports and activities that I can participate in. The next women might not be so lucky.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH FITCH,
20 Herbert Road,
Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.

Wider horizons

From Mr J. L. Wall

Sir, Those who currently doubt the idea of a northern hemisphere version of the Super 10 rugby union competition may be in danger of being cast as rugby's Eurosceptics. They might reasonably suggest, however, that yet more competitive rugby can only further professionalise the game and erode even more the Corinthian free-flow and enterprise on which the northern hemisphere game was once based, many years before the advent of modern percentage rugby.

On the other hand, leading unions might reflect on whether they have not been just a little insular over the past decade. Leadership of the world game has been surrendered to the antipodean unions, who have formed a separate southern hemisphere alliance as well as instituting the Super 10.

A European Super 10-style competition may also be a logical development of regional and divisional rugby and need not, if adroitly structured, unduly disrupt club programmes.

If played in November and December, it could also be an excellent build-up to the five nations' championship and provide administrators with the opportunity to develop the sort of forum that might usefully offer a constructive counterpoint to the southern hemisphere think-tank.

Thought should also be given to how best to satisfy the desire of Europe's emerging nations for more frequent, testing representative rugby. A pre-qualifying route for them to a place in Super 10 would be better than ultimately overloading the five nations' championship, the only other testing ground for top-flight northern hemisphere international rugby.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. WALL,
14 Cavendish Road,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

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21½ Pts £420.50
21 Pts £63.40
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DOUG MARKE



The inaugural men's boat race between the two Nottingham universities on the Trent yesterday ended in doom and gloom for Nottingham University (above), who "won" by half a length but were subsequently disqualified for rowing inside a marking buoy that they could hardly see in the afternoon darkness. This error handed the race to Nottingham Trent University, who thus gained revenge, of sorts, for their defeat by the same opponents in the British University championships earlier this year. However, the elder university swept the board in the five other races. Tim Pitt, the Nottingham University Boat Club captain, pronounced the event a "big success. There's been a lot of support for it," he said. Around 1,000 students lined the banks for the races, which started just upstream from Wilford Church and ended near Trent Bridge.

Ready to lead the financial revolution

Brian Walden turns interviewee and tells **Richard Evans**, racing correspondent, how he hopes to improve the sport's funding

Walden. The name alone evokes gravitas. Walden, the brightest politician of his day, who eschewed the temptation of power. Walden, the television interrogator, who could bring a Cabinet minister to his knees. Are we now about to witness Walden, the racing professional, who helps to spearhead a financial revolution in a sport he has followed and loved for most of his 62 years?

As horse racing yesterday came to grips with the possibility of Brian Walden seeking election to a key job at the British Horseracing Board (BHB), the question being posed was, why should a Guernsey-based multi-millionaire, who once turned down a government job with Harold Wilson, want to be bothered with racing politics.

Yesterday, Walden's response was as direct as those famous questions that made politicians quiver. "The racing industry desperately needs and could have better financing. To get that, a number of things have got to be done and they are all difficult. That is what appeals — the difficulty of the challenge — and putting something back into a sport I love and enjoy.

"Government has to be persuaded not to take so much money out, and that is not going to be easy. All governments are desperate to get as much money as they can and racing has always had this unhappy image of being a gamblers' paradise run by a lot of toffee-nosed rich people.

"Government could also be persuaded to do other interesting things, such as offer tax remissions to businesses that invest in racing. That is also not easy because it involves them giving up money."

One of Walden's talents used to be summing up an interviewee's response in simple terms for viewers. Walden summarised himself. "Racing will not go on in this country anything like as well as it ought to go on and will fall behind its international competitors unless it funds itself properly."

Easy to say, but how can it be achieved? Walden believes the levy system of funding racing, paid for by betting-shop punters, is outdated and he has an alternative in mind. "I would like to check it out with the experts on two grounds. First, the practicability if everything fell into place, and any disadvantages a new system might carry with it. Secondly, whether there is the slightest chance of getting it to fall into place as against all the pressures that will inevitably be there for it not to happen."

He also has firm views on the Tote, chaired by Lord Wyatt, and the role played by the bookmaking industry. "I don't want to tip bookmakers off, but I have plans for them, too. There is no question their contribution has got to expand."

In the 1970s, Walden was on the other side of the fence as a parliamentary consultant to the National Association of Bookmakers (NAB). Or, as Dennis Skinner once described him, "the bookies' runner". Leopards do not change their spots, do they?

"Winston Churchill was the greatest single opponent of Bolshevism until the Second World War and then he decided, in those changed circumstances, the USSR would be England's friend. All of that [the NAB job] was more than 20 years ago; it is a different world now."



'Racing will fall behind unless it funds itself properly'

Walden's ideas are fine, his record is impeccable and his potential ability to engineer crucial change is unrivalled. But is a man who has never owned or bred a horse and lives in tax exile off the mainland the right person to chair the BHB's industry committee?

"I am not sure I represent grass-roots opinion. I think the real job of the industry committee and the BHB in general is to get a hell of a lot more money into racing. Whether grass-roots opinion quite sees it like that, I have some doubts."

Walden faces a hard fight to be elected after nominations close on December 31. The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association council has decided to nominate its chairman, Rhydian Morgan-Jones, while the Jockeys Association and stable lads are expected to promote the cause of Matthew McCloy. The trainers are theoretically committed to Morgan-Jones, which would mean seven of the 17 available votes are already accounted for, but they may think again after seeing Walden.

"I wish to cut no social figure in racing, nor pontificate, nor, in fact, change the essence of it, but we can't go on like this. There has to be a gradual but insistent change in the way you fund it."

Unimagined defeat rocks Real

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

REAL MADRID'S elimination from the Uefa Cup at the hands of OB Odense, the Danish part-timers, on Tuesday night was the Spanish club's most unexpected reverse for a decade, and arguably their worst result in nearly 40 years of participation in European football competition.

As Spaniards struggled to come to terms with the 2-0 defeat in the Bernabéu Stadium, a victory that gave Odense a 4-3 aggregate victory, the most realistic assessment came from the Real goalkeeper, José Cañizares. "We had 20 chances and didn't score. They had three and scored twice," he said.

Most supporters, however, tended to agree with the Real coach, Jorge Valdano, who pronounced their defeat — inflicted by Morton Bisgaard's goal with almost the last kick of the match — a travesty. "Swallowing this defeat is like swallowing poison," Valdano said. "The punishment ... was out of all proportion."

"Totally unjust", "Tragedy" and "Let-down" were some of the headlines adorning the country's two leading sports newspapers yesterday morning after Madrid, six times the champions of Europe, allowed the Danes to overturn a 3-2 first-leg deficit. Not since they were beaten in the first round of the same competition by Sparta Prague in 1983 have Madrid suffered such ignominy.

Since 1960, when they paraded the European Cup on the streets of the Spanish capital for an unequalled fifth successive season, the club has taken continental success for granted. Only once in 40 years have Real failed to qualify for Europe. They have gone through to European finals 13 times and have won the Uefa Cup twice to add to their European Cup triumphs.

Odense had previously felt the overbearing weight of that success. In their four previous meetings, Madrid had scored 19 goals against them and conceded only three. In their most recent encounter, four seasons ago, the Spaniards ran out 6-0 winners on home soil. Until this season, Odense had never progressed to the second round of a European competition.

However, for Real's older supporters, the defeat on Tuesday still did not compare to the club's other notable European humiliation, in the autumn of 1962. Madrid, their great side of the Fifties on the wane but still the undisputed aristocrats of European football, were held 3-3 in Spain by a humble Anderlecht side, and to their disbelief lost to the Belgians 1-0 in the return.

In the 1970-71 season, the Spaniards suffered a couple of Cup Winners' Cup first-leg scares in Britain, drawing 0-0 with Hibernian and losing 1-0 to Cardiff City, but on both occasions the British teams shrank in the imposing surroundings of the Bernabéu, and Madrid brushed them aside with convincing second-leg victories. Three years later, Ipswich Town beat them 1-0 on aggregate in the first round of the Uefa Cup.

Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, about 2,000 supporters turned up to cheer the Odense players on their return from Madrid in the early hours. Some supporters had stayed up all night to celebrate the victory that takes Odense into the quarter-finals.

Danish newspapers acclaimed their victory. One called it "the miracle in Madrid", another "an extraordinary Christmas present". Others drew parallels to Hans Christian Andersen, who was born in Odense. "Now Odense Boldklub has also written a fairy-tale," the *BT* said.

The coach, Kim Brink, and Odense's long-serving goalkeeper, Lars Hoegh, 35, were lavished with praise. The *Ekstra Bladet* newspaper gave Hoegh nine points out of eight for his performance.

☐ The German champions, Bayern Munich, are considering signing the troubled Eintracht Frankfurt striker, Anthony Yeboah.

Yeboah, the Ghanaian who was joint top goalscorer in the *Bundesliga* last season, was transfer-listed with two teammates at the weekend after he was involved in an argument about an extra training session with the Eintracht coach, Jupp Heynckes. "We could afford him from the money point of view," the Bayern vice-president, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, said yesterday.

The Bayern captain, Lothar Matthäus, is also keen on the move. "If we have the chance to sign a player like that, we should act on it straightaway," he said.

☐ Portugal will award three points instead of two for victories in national and regional championship matches from next season, the Portuguese Football Federation announced yesterday.

Diego Maradona has resigned as coach of Mandiyu de Corrientes, the Argentine side, after a dispute with the club's president. Maradona had been with Mandiyu for less than two months, during which time they won one out of 12 games. They are second from bottom of the first division.

Lightweight Harris recaptures best form

THE British surge through the international squash scene produced an unexpected bonus in Karachi yesterday when Del Harris, the former world junior champion, returned to his best to beat Brett Martin, of Australia, the second seed, 15-8, 15-12, 11-15, 11-15, 15-12 in the quarter-finals of the Yasoob Pakistan Open championship (Colin McQuillan writes).

The win guaranteed England a finalist in this event for the first time. Harris, ranked 20 in the world and seeded No 15 here, takes on the British champion and world No 2, Peter Marshall, in one of today's semi-finals, with Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, and Rodney Eyles, of Australia, meeting in the other.

Harris, 25, has shed almost two stone in recent months but the tall blond from Dedham, Essex, still dwarfs the other top players on the world tour. "I trained harder than ever before through the summer and have kept training even when playing in tournaments," Harris said.

"I got it slightly wrong in Japan where I was too tired from training to stay the course. But in Qatar and here I have tapered off the training to compete and have now reached semi-finals twice, which must send my ranking soaring up."

Harris's efforts sent spectator interest soaring as his victory followed straightforward wins by Jansher over Chris Walker, of England, Marshall over Ross Norman, of New Zealand, and Eyles over Rodney Martin.

Francis move nears completion

THE on-off transfer of Kevin Francis from Stockport County to Birmingham City was on again last night (Peter Ball writes). Francis travelled to Birmingham to finalise personal terms after a day of haggling resolved the gap between the clubs' valuations.

Birmingham will pay a club-record £800,000 for the 6ft 7in striker, who has scored 115 goals in three seasons for the Cheshire club. Stockport had asked for £800,000, with a further £330,000, to be paid in instalments, linked to appearances and goals. Birmingham offered £600,000 and either Paul Moulden or Andy Saville but both players turned down the move.

Ian Rush will make an estimated £200,000 from Tuesday's testimonial against Celtic. Liverpool were yesterday counting the cost as Steve McManaman joined a growing Anfield injury list. McManaman's injury may not be as bad as was first thought but he is unlikely to be fit for the match at home to Crystal Palace on Sunday.

With Rush on international duty for Wales, Jones and Molby both out with hamstring problems, and Redknapp and Barnes doubtful, Clough and Walters may make their first starts of the season.

Leicester City are getting closer to filling their managerial vacancy, with Mark McGhee, of Reading, emerging as the new favourite if the approach for Dave Bassett stalls. McGhee, like Bassett, has had great success on limited resources, taking Reading to promotion last season and a play-off position in the first division this term.

THE TIMES

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FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 1 Port Vale 0; Notts County 1 Tranmere Rovers 0; Reading 1 Middlesbrough 1
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough 0 Kettering 0.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Raith 1 St Mirren 1.
UEFA CUP: Third round: Second leg: Parma (It) 4 Athletic Bilbao (Sp) 2 (Parma win 4-3 on agg); Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 3 Deportivo Coruña (Sp) 1 (aet; 1-0; Dortmund win 3-2 on agg); Juventus (It) 2 Admira Wacker (Aus) 1 (Juventus win 5-2 on agg); Lazio (It) 2 Trabzonspor (Tur) 1 (Lazio win 4-2 on agg).
UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Knowsley 3 Droylsden 0. President's Cup: First round: Marine 3 Warrington Town 0; Morecambe 3 Netherfield 2. Unifilla first division cup: Second round: Blyth Spartans 3 Radcliffe Borough 2.
KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES CUP: Second round: First leg: Maesteg Park 0 Ton Pentre 4.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester 4 Crawley Town 1; Gresley Rovers 3 Cambridge City 1. Midland division: Redditch Utd 3 Armitage 1. Southern division: Baldock Town 3 Bury Town 0; Braintree Town 2 Erith and Belvedere 2.
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Blackpool Rovers 0 St Helens Town 4; Burscough 4 Penrith 0; Newcastle Town 1 Trafford 1 League Challenge Cup: Second round: Oldham Town 0 Holker Old 0 Tennents Floodlit Trophy: Second round: Kidsgrove Athletic 3 Darwen 1.
DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Newbury Town 2 Maidenhead United 2 Carlsberg Trophy: Second round: Southall 3 East Thurrock Utd 0, Billericay Town 2 Heybridge Swifts 1 (aet, 1-1)
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiptree 1 Hadleigh 1
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Torquay 1 Plymouth Argyle 0; Bournemouth 6 Torquay 1. Postponed: Bath v Cardiff, Exeter v Yeovil, Swansea v Cheltenham. First division: Watford 0 Chelsea 2; Queens Park Rangers 2 Brighton 0, Wimbledon 2 Ipswich 4. Postponed: Tottenham v Charlton.
FA PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER-19 TROPHY: Durham 2 Cleveland 1.
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Corrected result: NatWest Bank 0 Old Esthamesians 3
PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Aston Villa 3; Coventry 1 Stoke 0. Second division: Sheffield Wednesday 2 Oldham 1 Postponed: Burnley v Newcastle
DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 2 RKC Waalwijk 2
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Nottingham Forest 2 Leicester 1; Bradford 1 Sheffield 1; West Ham 2 Wimbledon 2. Colchester 3 Yeovil 0
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Thamesmead Town 0 Slade Green 2.
LEINSTER FA CUP: Semi-finals: Dundalk 8 St James Gate 0, Postponed: UCD v Cherry Orchard.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: West Midlands Police 0 Paget Rangers 1.
ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Belgrano 3 Boca Juniors 0, Newell's OB 0 Deportivo Espanol 1, Deportivo Mandiyu 0 Racing Club 0, Gimnasia de Jujuy 1 Huracan 0; River Plate 2 Talleres 1, San Lorenzo 3 Velez Sarsfield 1, Ferrocarril Oeste 1 Rosario Central 1; Argentinos Juniors 0 Gimnasia y Esgrima 2.
ROMANIAN LEAGUE: Gloria Bistrita 6 FC Maramures Baia Mare 1; FC Arges Pitesti 2 Sportul Studentesc 1; Rapid Bucharest 0 FC Petrolul Ploiesti 0; UT Arad 0 Universitatea Craiova 4; FC Inter Sibiu 2 Dinamo Bucharest 0, Electroputere Craiova 2 FC Brasov 0; FC National Bucharest 1 Universitatea Cluj 1, FC Farul Constanta 2 Otelul Galati 0.
SCOTLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (v Greece, Athens, December 17), M Baker (St Mirren), G Bollan (Dundee Utd), A Combe (St Mirren), S Crawford (Raith), C Daily (Dundee Utd), S Donnelly (Celtic), D Hannah (Dundee Utd), G Hood (Ayr Utd), A Johnston (Hearts), S Kerr (Celtic), N McCann (Dundee), C McDonald (Falkirk), J McNamara (Dunfermline), S Marshall (Arsenal), C Miller (Rangers), N Murray (Rangers), D Stillie (Aberdeen), K Thomas (Hearts).

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Sligo Rovers (8.0).
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Manchester United v Leeds United (at Gigg Lane, Bury, 7.0); Notts County v Blackburn Rovers (7.0). Second division: Bradford v Middlesbrough (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Towers v Hemel Hempstead (8.0)
SWIMMING: ASA National Winter Championships (Sheffield).

BADMINTON

BANGKOK: Grand Prix finals: Singles: Men: Group A: J Supriano (Indo) bt F Permadi (Indo) 15-9, 18-15, D Jiong (China) bt J van Dijk (Holl) 15-17, 18-14, 15-6. Group B: A Wiranata (Indo) bt L Tiong Ping (Indo) 14-17, 15-9, 15-5, P E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt S Kukasemkij (Tha) 15-11, 18-14 Group C: H Zhilan (China) bt J Olsson (Swe) 15-12, 15-5. Group D: A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt S Jun (China) 15-13, 15-3; T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt V Kharnthong (Tha) 15-12, 15-9. Women: Group A: S Susanti (Indo) bt P Plangyech (Tha) 11-4, 11-3. Group B: M Audina (Indo) bt L Xiaoqing (Swe) 5-11, 11-8, 12-9. Group D: S Jaroensiri (Tha) bt C Martin (Den) 11-4, 12-10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CUP: Fourth round: Sheffield Sharks 57 Derby Bucks 56.
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION: Cleveland 97 Orlando 114, Indiana 90 Detroit 83; New Jersey 91 Atlanta 94 (OT); New York 104 Boston 90; Minnesota 95 Denver 102; Seattle 103 Houston 90; San Antonio 121 Dallas 124 (OT). Utah 97 Charlotte 108; LA Lakers 113 Golden State 101, Sacramento 108 Milwaukee 95 Postponed: Washington v Phoenix.

BOBSLEIGH

WINTERBERG, Germany: World Cup: Two-man: 1, Latvia I (S Prusis/A Bulens) 1m3.53 1:3sec (56.42, 56.71); 2, Canada I (P Lueders/J Pyc) 1:53.16 (56.25, 56.91); 3, Switzerland I (R Goetschi/G Acklin) 1:53.24 (56.58, 56.66); 4, Germany I (D Wiese/C Bartsch) 1:53.26 (56.45, 56.81), 5, Switzerland III (D Schemer/J Frei) 1:53.26 (56.52, 56.74); 10, Great Britain I (M Tout/L Paul) 1:53.42 (56.51, 56.91). Leading World Cup standings (after three races): 1, G Huber (It) 90pts; 2, Goetschi 82, 3, B Shimer (US) 79, 4, J Dzmura (Cz) 72; 5, Lueders 70.

CRICKET

CAPE TOWN: Mandela Trophy: South Africa beat New Zealand by 69 runs

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson lbw b Pringle	9
G Kirsten lbw b de Groen	19
*W J Cronje c Young b Priest	38
D J Cullinan c Fleming b Doull	25
M Rindel run out	32
J N Rhodes b Pringle	21
†D J Richardson run out	23
E O Simons run out	24
C R Matthews not out	4
P S de Villiers not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 1)	8
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	203

FALL OF WICKETS 1-23, 2-35, 3-83, 4-104, 5-145, 6-153, 7-199, 8-200.
BOWLING: Doull 7-0-35-1; de Groen 10-1-33-1; Pringle 10-3-29-2, Priest 10-0-42-1; Harris 10-0-45-0; Su'a 3-0-12-0.

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young c Rindel b Matthews	25
S P Fleming c Cronje b de Villiers	12
M D Crowe c Richardson b Cronje	9
*K R Rutherford c Cronje b de Villiers	40
†A C Parore run out	13
C Z Harris c Richardson b Rindel	10
M L Su'a run out	1
M W Priest lbw b Rindel	1
S B Doull not out	19
C Pringle b Simons	1
R P de Groen b Simons	0
Extras (b 3)	3
Total (39.5 overs)	134

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-39, 3-52, 4-75, 5-101, 6-103, 7-106, 8-124, 9-134.
BOWLING: de Villiers 8-2-36-2; Matthews 8-3-22-1; Cronje 6-1-10-1; Simons 8.5-1-28-2, Elsteen 5-1-20-0; Rindel 5-0-15-2.
LENASIA: Tour match (50 overs): Pakistanis 262-7 (Ijaz Ahmed 112, Shakeel Ahmed 58) Transvaal Invitation XI 211 (M Rushmere 55). Pakistanis won by 51 runs.

LACROSSE

LIVERPOOL: All England Women's Counties Championship: Semi-finals: Middlesex 5 Sussex 3; Surrey 5 Staffordshire/West Midlands 3. Final: Surrey 3 Middlesex 2.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: England Emerging Players 34 Canada 6 (at Bath).
CLUB MATCH: Bonymaen 9 Pontypool 21.

SPEED SKATING

TOKYO: Men: 500m: 1, M Horii (Japan) 37.46sec; 2, K Yoon-man (S Kor) 37.87, 3, S Klevchenya (Russ) 37.95, 1,000m: 1, Yoon-man 1m1 15.75sec; 2, Y Miyabe (Japan) 1 15 79; 3, Horii 1:16.24 Women: 500m: 1, B Blair (US) 41 13sec. 2, M Garbrecht (Ger) 41.39; 3, S Auch (Can) 41.43. 1,000m: 1, S Kusunose (Japan) 1min 23 70sec; 2, Blair 1.23 81; 3, Garbrecht 1.24 02.

SQUASH

KARACHI: Pakistan open: Quarter-finals: R Eyles (Aus) bt R Martin (Aus) 15-10, 15-11, 15-8; P Marshall (Eng) bt R Norman (NZ) 15-12, 15-9, 15-8; J Khan (Pak) bt C Walker (Eng) 15-10, 15-8, 17-16, D Harris (Eng) bt B Martin (Aus) 15-8, 15-12, 11-15, 11-15, 15-12.

TABLE TENNIS

DONCASTER: European League super division: Semi-final: First leg: England 1 Germany 4 Scores (Eng first): C Xinhua bt R Prause 21-13, 15-21, 21-13; M Syed lost to J Rosskopf 12-21, 19-21; C Prean lost to P Franz 11-21, 17-21; Prean and A Cooke lost to Franz and T Wosik 20-22, 13-21. Chen lost to Rosskopf 19-21, 21-16, 17-21.

FIGURE SKATING

AMHERST, US: Team championships: Technical programme: Russia (A Kondrashova, A Fadeev, E Gordeeva and S Grinkov, M Usova and A Zhulin), 57.95pts; United States (K Yamaguchi, P Wylie, C Urbanski and R Marval, S Wynns and R Witherby), 57.85; Europe (K Witt, R Cousins, A Glaeser and A Rauschenbach, J Torvill and C Dean), 57.50; Canada (J Chouinard, K Browning, I Brasseur and L Eisler, M McDonald and M Smith), 57.05. Free skate: Russia, 58.75; Europe, 58.45; United States, 58.40; Canada, 57.30. Final standings: Russia, 116.70; United States, 116.25; Europe, 115.95, Canada, 114.35.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Grand Slam Cup: First round: M Larsson (Swe) bt S Edberg (Swe) 6-4, 6-7, 8-6; A Agassi (US) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-3, 7-5.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

POETETTE

(a) A young or minor poetess. 1913 E. Pound *Letters* Nov. (1971) 26: "I seem to spend most of my time attending to other peoples' affairs, weaning young poetettes from obscurity into the glowing pages of divers rotten publications."

PITHECANTHROPUS

(b) A hypothetical creature bridging the gap in evolutionary development between apes and man. 1905 J. McCabe tr. *Haeckel's Evol. Man* II. xxiii. 632: "The pithecanthropus excited the liveliest interest, as the long-sought transitional form between man and the ape."

RAUWOLFIA

(b) A tropical shrub or small tree of the genus so called, belonging to the family Apocynaceae and bearing clusters of small white flowers and red or black berries: *esp.* a shrub of one of the several species cultivated for the medicinal drugs obtained from their roots. "Jungle shamans scoured the undergrowth for rauwolfia to cure their sick Queen."

PROTARGOL

(b) A substance made from protein and various compounds of silver, used as a mild antiseptic and a stain. "In the most severe cases, a doctor would rub protargol into the margins of the eyelids with a stumpy camel's hair brush."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxh7+! Kxh7 2 Rh5+ Kg8 3 Rh8 mate.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Bradbury Star tops Kempton betting

BRADBURY STAR has been installed 7-2 favourite for the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing day by Coral and William Hill. The Josh Gifford-trained nine-year-old failed by only a head against Barton Bank in the race 12 months ago.

Barton Bank and The Fellow, also a previous winner, share second favouritism in both books at 4-1, with Corals bracketing Coulton, Travado and Young Hustler on 10-1. Hills include Dubacilla, trained, like Barton Bank, by David Nicholson, at that price.

There were 25 entries for the £90,000 added, three-mile contest yesterday, but Gifford is quietly confident that it is Bradbury Star who will have the edge this time. "He's in great form," the trainer said yesterday. "He'll have some faster work later, but I think he's better fresh and he doesn't need a lot of work. I am hopeful of reversing the form with Barton Bank."

Jockey plans remain fluid. Declan Murphy, who partnered the gelding last year, has yet to be cleared to resume riding, leaving Philip Hide, who was on board Bradbury Star when he won the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham last time out, likely to retain the mount. However, Gifford added: "I haven't had a chance to discuss jockeys with the owners yet."

ENTRIES: Algan, Barton Bank, Black Humour, Bradbury Star, Cogent, Commercial Artist, Coulton, Crystal Spirit, Docklands Express, Gala Again, Jodami, Lord Relic, Lusty Light, Master Oats, Monsier Le Cure, Nevada Gold, Raymylette, Second Schedual, The Fellow, Travado, Val D'Alene, Whispering Steel, Young Hustler, Dubacilla, Martomick.

BETTING. Coral: 7-2 Bradbury Star, 4-1 Barton Bank and The Fellow, 10-1 Coulton, Travado and Young Hustler, 12-1 Raymylette, 16-1 Gala Again and Monsieur Le Cure, 20-1 others.

William Hill: 7-2 Bradbury Star, 4-1 Barton Bank and The Fellow, 10-1 Coulton, Dubacilla, Travado and Young Hustler, 12-1 Monsieur Le Cure, and Raymylette, 16-1 others.

Jumping errors blight former Gold Cup winner's return

Slipshod Jodami falls from grace

By Julian Muscat

PAUL SANDERS



The riderless Jodami gallops home after parting company with Dwyer in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock

THE one flaw in Jodami's otherwise formidable armoury returned to haunt him at a rainswept Haydock Park yesterday. With the Tommy Whittle Chase seemingly unfolding to plan, the 1993 Gold Cup winner clattered straight through the last open ditch, the fourth fence from home, giving his jockey, Mark Dwyer, no conceivable chance of surviving the blunder. It was an ignominious conclusion to a seasonal debut that had promised so much.

How Dwyer must have cursed his fate. He had spent much of the race perched high above Jodami's withers as he monitored the more laboured jumping efforts of Chatam, the eventual winner, and Black Humour, who were his only two opponents. Jodami looked full of running approaching that fateful ditch, but perhaps Dwyer should have taken more heed of a portent two fences earlier, when Jodami, prompted by his jockey, declined an invitation to take off on a long stride.

In truth, however, the ground was barely raceable after a bout of heavy rain. To attempt any adjustments in stride would have been a futile exercise. Nevertheless, Jodami made a similar blunder on his seasonal debut at Wetherby 14 months ago. Then, as yesterday, he was caught out by the last open ditch; then, as yesterday, he barely rose in his efforts to clear it.

"I wish I could tell you more," a rueful Dwyer reflected. "He walked through the ditch and that was it. He made the same mistake last year, except that he didn't actually fall this time. Otherwise, I was happy with him throughout. I just hope that he's sound in the morning."

The horse could hardly have appeared in better health in the preliminaries. He was bright in eye and coat, and it is a source of perennial fascination that an animal of such size and substance can appear so dainty at the walk.

If his occasional jumping errors were once frustrating, they have now become a serious stumbling block in Jodami's quest to dominate his contemporaries. A minor aberration at the last fence cost him valuable momentum in the Gold Cup nine months ago, when he forfeited what slim chance he still retained in his stirring battle with The Fellow. That memory, coupled with yesterday's lapse, prompted those bookmakers in attendance to ease him a point, to 8-1, for the Cheltenham showpiece.

Peter Beaumont, who trains Jodami, was more inclined to dismiss the cumulative evidence now gathering against his majestic chaser. "It's disappointing," he conceded, "but it was just a mistake, that's all. Look at Chatam, he made mistakes and got away with them. Unfortunately, we didn't."

However, Jodami's more faithful supporters will be prepared to excuse this defeat only on the evidence of a more polished round of jumping on less testing ground next time out. It is, after all, only a minor flaw that differentiates the very good steeplechaser from the great.

Should Jodami's connections feel swamped by frustration, they can take heart from the experience endured by the owners of Chatam. This was Chatam's first triumph since he landed the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup more than three years ago. A flat, left-handed track and soft ground — his front feet resemble a pair of satellite dishes — suit him admirably, although he seemed sure to be hard pressed by Black Humour as the pair approached the final fence more or less in tandem.

That illusion did not last long. So exhausted was Black Humour after clearing the last that Graham Bradley quickly eased him to a trot, leaving Chatam, trained by Martin Pipe and ridden by Richard Dunwoody, to coast home for a bloodless verdict. The victory, while warmly greeted by his connections, told us little about his chance in the Coral Welsh National, for which he incurred a 4lb penalty. The sponsors wasted little time in leaving his price unchanged at 12-1.

Dwyer, although visibly disappointed, did not leave Haydock empty-handed after Uncle Ernie, a stalwart of the Jimmy Fitzgerald stable, made light of 11st 10lb on his seasonal reappearance to defy Political Tower in the Leigh Handicap Chase.

Fitzgerald, an old ally of Dwyer, had earlier saddled Dual Image to a narrow defeat of Devilry in the Beeches Farm Handicap Hurdle for conditional jockeys. Consequently, it was he who went home by some way the happier man.

Meetings off

THE meeting at Hexham tomorrow has been called off because of waterlogging. It is the fifth fixture to be lost this National Hunt season, adding to the abandonment of yesterday's Worcester programme, also through waterlogging.

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.50 Kayfaat
1.20 Granvillewaterford
1.50 Tartan Tyrant
2.20 Lochnagrain
2.50 Approach The Stars
3.20 Nordic Crown

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

:01 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,6,5) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 . B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — last P — pulled up. U — unseated rider B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F d flat (B — blinkers V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets Trainer Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

12.50 WIDNES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,234, 2m 4f) (6 runners)

101	5-	MONBODDO 475 (Miss G Joughin) J J O'Neill 5-11-6	M Dwyer	–
102	F300-4	TALOS 10 (Mrs C Lotz) D Moffatt 6-11-6	D J Moffatt (3)	(5)
103	1323/	SAYH 600 (S) (B Gatersbury) J White 5-11-2	A Maguire	–
104	0/4/460	KAYFAAT 44 (B,G) (Crown Racing) M Pipe 6-10-12	J Lower	97
105	PP0-56	TARGET LINE 7 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 4-10-10	Richard Guest	72

BETTING: 2-1 Kayfaat, 9-4 Sayh, 11-4 Talos, 5-1 Monboddo, 16-1 Target Line
1993: HIGH GRADE 5-10-10 H Davies (8-1) Mrs S Wilton 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MONBODDO 17½-1 6th of 12 to Martins Executive in novice hurdle at Perth (3m 110yd, good to firm) TALOS 19¾-1 4th to Sweet Mignonette in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good) SAYH 7¼ 3rd of 11 to Mackeen in novice hurdle at Stratford (3m 6f 110yd, firm) in April 1993. KAYFAAT 30¼ 7th of 16 to Aal El Aal in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 1f, soft) TARGET LINE 27¼ 6th to Star Mover in selling handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Selection: TALOS

1.20 BOSTON PIT VETERANS HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,765, 2m 4f) (4 runners)

201	1PPR6-4	GARRISON SAVANNAH 15 (B,G,S) (Autotour Eng) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-12	W Marston	(5)
202	PP/54PP-	REPEAT THE DOSE 240 (D,F,B,S) (A Waters) T Lacey 9-11-0	A Maguire	90
203	132/6-2	GRANVILLEWATERFORD 14 (D,G) (Mrs D Stamp) S Sherwood 9-10-11	J Osborne	95
204	3-113FP	FESTIVAL DREAMS 19 (F,G,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 9-10-10	P Holley	90

BETTING: 11-8 Granvillewaterford, 6-4 Garrison Savannah, 7-2 Festival Dreams, 10-1 Repeat The Dose.
1993: WIDE BOY 11-11-10 A Maguire (7-4) P Hobbs 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

GARRISON SAVANNAH 24½l 4th to Warner For Winners in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). Best effort last season, beat Ryde Again 3l in condtionals' chase at Wincanton (3m 5f, good to soft). REPEAT THE DOSE best effort last season 12½l 4th to Prince Yaza in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 4f, soft). GRANVILLEWATERFORD 2l 2nd to Supposin in handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 5f, good). FESTIVAL DREAMS best effort when pulling The Country Trader 11½l in handicap chase at Exeter (3m 3f, good). Selection: GRANVILLEWATERFORD

1.50 RONNIE JOHNSTON MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,199: 4m 110yd) (8 runners)

301	F111P-1	TARTAN TYRANT 21 (C,G,S) (Mackinnon Mates) G Richards 8-11-10	A Dobbin	(5)
302	U62-231	INTO THE RED 19 (G,S) (J Huckle) J White 10-11-6	Richard Guest	94
303	4/4F4-U	KING'S CURATE 12 (S) (C Ellis) M Pipe 10-11-6	J Osborne	92
304	21333-1	LD STREGONE 43 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 8-10-9	R Garritty	98
305	3P3P-23	MATT REID 21 (G,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 10-10-2	Mr W Morgan	91
306	P11-34P	VIVA BELLA 9 (B,D,G,S) (L Hoomes) Mrs S Bramall 7-10-2	Mr D Parker	(5) 97
307	05-P/34	FIDDLERS PIKE 12 (S) Mrs R Henderson 13-10-1	Mrs R Henderson	–
308	P43P-P2	DIAMOND FORT 21 (F,G,S) (Mrs R Stocks) J McConnochie 9-10-0	A Maguire	92

Long handicap. Diamond Fort 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Tartan Tyrant, 3-1 Into The Red, 7-2 Le Stregone, 9-2 King's Curate, 8-1 Diamond Fort, 16-1 Viva Bella, Matt Reid, 33-1 others.
1993: ALL JEFF 9-11-7 G Bradley (2-1) C Brooks 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

TARTAN TYRANT beat DIAMOND FORT (3lb better off) 9l in 8-runner handicap chase here (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with MATT REID (4lb better off) 12l 3rd and VIVA BELLA (7lb better off) 3l 4th. INTO THE RED beat Feathered Gale 15l in 9-runner handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good). LD STREGONE beat Warner For Winners 19¾l in 11-runner amateurs' handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). MATT REID 12l 2nd of 11 to Silver Stack in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. VIVA BELLA best effort beat Lauderdale Lad ½l in 13-runner handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good) final start last season. DIAMOND FORT best effort last season 41½l 3rd of 12 to Warner For Winners in handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, soft). Selection: TARTAN TYRANT

2.20 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,556: 2m) (17 runners)

401	23-5	BENBEATH 21 (C. Lycett) M Hammond 4-11-0	Mr C Bonner (5)	–
402	0	BEST OF FRIENDS 43 (J McGrath) Miss H Knight 4-11-0	J F Titley	–
403		FORBIDDEN TIME (Mr J Pemberton) L Lungo 5-11-0	T Reed	–
404	3-2	FOXBOW 16 (BF) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 4-11-0	A Maguire	97
405	0	HE FLIES BY NIGHT 33 (Mrs Z Clark) S Christian 5-11-0	G Upton	76
406	6-	KNUCKLEBUSTER 257 (A Rankin) R Fahey 4-11-0	L Wyer	–
407	0/012-3	LOCHNAGRAIN 41 (S) (Lightbody of Hamilton Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0	P Niven	93
408	2-	SEACHANGE 238 (A Stevens) M Williamson 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	–
409	6	SEYMOUR SPY 21 (Mrs J Burnett) Mrs A Hewitt 5-11-0	S Wynne (3)	–
410	16-0	SOUNDS FYNE 61 (S) (P O'Sullevan) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0	M Dwyer	–
411	6	SOVEREIGN SPRAY 17 (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 4-11-0	L O'Hara	66
412	1-	SUPREME RAMBLER 315 (S) (Mrs L Deacon) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	J Osborne	–
413	3	TENNESSEE KING 15 (D Armitage) A Foster 4-11-0	A Dobbin	(5)
414	04-0	UNCLE BERUI 40 (R Flegg) J Parker 5-11-0	A Thornton	–
415	1-103	VALLEY GARDEN 14 (G,S) (The Motley Crew) J J O'Neill 4-11-0	A Roche (3)	92
416	00P-6	FAST EXIT 13 (P Snowden) Mrs S Smith 6-10-9	Richard Guest	–
417	5/060-	TIGH-NA-MARA 212 (B Gordon) D Garrison 6-10-9	E Husband (5)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Lochnagrain, 3-1 Foxbow 5-1 Supreme Rambler, 6-1 Tennessee King, 8-1 Sounds Fyne, 10-1 Valley Garden, 14-1 Seachange, 16-1 He Flies By Night, 20-1 others
1993: WITH IMPUNITY 4-11-0 C Llewellyn (10-1) N Twiston-Davies 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BENBEATH 5¾l 5th of 18 to Duke's Mount in National Hunt Flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to firm) with SEYMOUR SPY 10l 6th, FOXBOW 9l 2nd of 16 to Silver Groom in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good to soft). HE FLIES BY NIGHT 19l 8th of 22 to Fourth In Line in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to soft) LOCHNAGRAIN 16l 3rd of 19 to Calliope Bay in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good) SEACHANGE 7l 2nd of 22 to No Near Miss in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to soft) SOUNDS FYNE beat Roseberry Topping 3½l in 15-runner National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, soft) in November last year. SUPREME RAMBLER beat No Near Miss 4½l in 22-runner National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good) TENNESSEE KING 14l 3rd of 13 to Senor El Betroyth in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) VALLEY GARDEN 13½l 3rd of 13 to Aide Memoire in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to soft) Selection: LOCHNAGRAIN

2.50 SOUTHPORT NOVICES CHASE
(£4,202: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

501	FZ41-45	AMBLESIDE HARVEST 36 (G,S) (C & P Barker Ltd) J J O'Neill 7-11-0	M Dwyer	91
502	4	APPROACH THE STARS 12 (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 6-11-0	A Maguire	(5)
503	61353/	MUGONI BEACH 988 (G,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 9-11-0	J Lower	–
504	05	THE BLACK BISHOP 271 (Mrs J Pemberton) L Lungo 6-11-0	T Reed	–
505	43-3	EASTER OATS 14 (S) (Miss R Goldie) R Goldie 7-10-9	N Johnson	98

BETTING: 5-4 Approach The Stars, 9-4 Mugoni Beach, 11-4 Ambleside Harvest, 16-1 Easter Oats, 25-1 The Black Bishop.
1993: EASY BUCK 6-11-4 C Maude (11-8 fav) N Gaselee 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBLESIDE HARVEST 33l 5th of 7 to Peradia in novice chase here (3m, good). APPROACH THE STARS 31½l 4th of 10 to The Frog Prince in condtionals chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft) MUGONI BEACH 10l 3rd of 24 to Castagliero in handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m, good to soft) THE BLACK BISHOP tailed off 5th of 10 to My Rocean in novice hurdle here (2m 4f, good to soft) EASTER OATS 44l 3rd of 10 to Pennine Pride in novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Selection: APPROACH THE STARS

3.20 HINDLEY GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,430: 2m) (10 runners)

601	4112	NORDIC CROWN 7 (B,G) (A Lomas) M Pipe 11-5	J Lower	(5)
602	134	HEATHYARDS CRUSADE 7 (G) (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 11-4	S Wynne (3)	95
603	1	LOMOND MIST 23 (D,S) (Mrs M Bird) J Johnson 11-4	N Doughty	91
604	0431	PLUNDER BAY 20 (D,S) (Mrs S Rooney) D Nicholson 11-4	A Maguire	80
605		LIVID 183F (J Glass) L Lungo 10-12	T Reed	–
606	P3	MERRYHILL GOLD 17 (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 10-12	L O'Hara	83
607		UCKERBY LAD 40F (T Clarke) N Littmoden 10-12	Mr B Pollock (7)	–
608		UP IN FLAMES 152F (M Kilner) M Hammond 10-12	D Bentley (3)	–
609	6	VERYVEL 29 (D Lowe) R Simpson 10-12	G Bradley	71
610	0	MARROWFAT LADY 82F (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 10-7	P Holley	–

BETTING: 7-4 Lomond Mist, 9-4 Plunder Bay, 3-1 Nordic Crown, 10-1 Heathyards Crusade, Up In Flames, 25-1 Livid, Merryhill Gold, 33-1 others.
1993: GIORDANO 10-12 Gary Lyons (11-1) P Evans 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC CROWN 3½l 2nd to Memorable in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) with HEATHYARDS CRUSADE 9½l 4th, HEATHYARDS CRUSADE 18l 3rd of 11 to Autumn in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start. LOMOND MIST beat Golden Hello 4l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). PLUNDER BAY beat Well Arranged 1l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft). MERRYHILL GOLD 5½l 3rd of 12 to Royal Crest in novice hurdle at Cattereck (2m, good) UP IN FLAMES ½l 2nd of 13 to Royal Comedian in handicap on Flat at Chester (7f 122yd, good to firm) in July. VERYVEL 33½l 6th of 13 to Autumn in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy) Selection: NORDIC CROWN (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	37	117	31.6	N Doughty	31	87	35.6
Mrs M Reveley	7	25	28.0	G Bradley	9	36	25.0
M Pipe	29	104	27.9	C Llewellyn	6	26	23.1
D Nicholson	7	27	25.9	A Maguire	8	39	20.5
Jimmy Fitzgerald	12	50	24.0	A Dobbin	5	25	20.0
T Tate	4	18	22.2	M Dwyer	20	109	18.3

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER

12.10 Bures. 12.40 Tynron Doon. 1.10 Non Vintage. 1.40 Dont Tell The Wife. 2.10 Northern Saddler. 2.40 Fast Thoughts. 3.10 Maneree.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.10 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,545: 2m) (8 runners)

1	1	JOHN TUFTY 16 (D,6) J Pearce 11-5	J McLaughlin	–
2	1352	WEATHER ALERT 17 (BF,G) K Morgan 11-5	A S Smith	–
3		BURSS 51F M Tompkins 10-12	D Bridgwater	–
4	P	DESERT PRESIDENT 23 R Head 10-12	M Hourigan	–
5		EVERSO LIMBLE J Poulton 10-12	R Rowell	–
6	28	JATHIB 25 (BF) C Williams 10-12	S Keightley	–
7	6	VICEROY RULER 9 J Jenkins 10-12	N Williamson	–
8	05	BERNIE'S SISTER 16 C Allen 10-7	J Ryan	–

6-4 Weather Alert, 9-4 Bures, 9-2 John Tufty, 6-1 Jathib, 14-1 others.

12.40 G B PRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,759: 2m) (10)

1	11-5	PINECONE PETER 16 (V,CD,F,6,5) O Brennan 7-11-10	M Brennan	–
2	11F0	DAYS OF THUNDER 21 (D,6) J White 6-11-6	J Railton	–
3	P/1	NAMASTE 23 (D,6,5) R Head 6-11-0	A S Smith	–
4	5P54	DON'T FORGET MARIE 21 (F,6,5) A Bailey 4-10-13	A Procter (3)	–
5	5-60	NORTHERN NATION 21 (D,6) W Clay 6-10-13	Diane Clay	–
6	021-	ELEGANT FRIEND 202 (CD,6,5) M Tompkins 6-10-11	D Bridgwater	–
7	14-3	TENDRESSE 8 (B,F) R Hodges 6-10-3	T Jenks (3)	–
8	-640	ALOSAILI 21 (D,F,6) B Stevens 7-10-3	M Stevens	–
9	444-	TYNRON DOON 211 (B,D,5) Mrs N Macauley 5-10-0	N Williamson	–
10	3322	SALISONG 12 J Whyte 5-10-0	M Hourigan	–

4-1 Pinecone Peter, 9-2 Elegant Friend, 5-1 Namaste, 6-1 Don't Forget Marie, Tendresse, 10-1 Days Of Thunder, Salisong, Tynron Doon, 12-1 others.

1.10 EASTERN DAILY PRESS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,545: 2m) (8)

1	11P5	JUBILEE ROYALE 14 (D,F) G Hubbard 11-10	G Bazin (7)	–
2	13	CASUAL WATER 19 (B,6) J White 11-5	J Railton	–
3	P1	RIVER JUNCTION 19 (D,6) D Nicholson 11-5	R Massey (7)	–
4		AMBER VALLEY 54F D Williams 10-12	A P McCoy (3)	–
5	50	DALLAI 9 Mrs N Macauley 10-12	N Williamson	–
6	342	NON VINTAGE 6 M Chapman 10-12	W Worthington	–
7		DUBALL REMY 31F J Scargill 10-7	N Mann	–
8		ONE FOR MUM J Poulton 10-7	Laura Long	–

4-5 River Junction, 4-1 Non Vintage, 6-1 Casual Water, 8-1 Jubilee Royale, 10-1 Amber Valley, 14-1 Duball Remy, 16-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs N Macauley, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%, O Brennan, 6 from 20, 30.0%, G Bravery, 3 from 10, 30.0%, M Tompkins, 4 from 18, 22.2%; J Jenkins, 7 from 34, 20.6%; Mrs D Haine, 4 from 21, 19.0%.

JOCKEYS: J McLaughlin, 5 winners from 12 rides, 41.7%; M Brennan, 6 from 26, 23.1%; M Atkins, 3 from 14, 21.4%, J Ryan, 3 from 18, 16.7%; A S Smith, 3 from 23, 13.0%. Only qualifiers.

1.40 STEPHENSON SMART HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,963: 3m 110yd) (5)

1	FP31	MUSTHAVEASWIG 7 (D,G) D Nicholson 8-12-3	Mr R Johnson (7)	–
2	-P53	FLASHTHECASH 15 (V,D,F,S) G Balding 8-11-13	A P McCoy (3)	–
3	1-12	DONT TELL THE WIFE 20 (D,BF,6,5) Mr; D Haine 8-11-7	D Bridgwater	–
4	4-06	CUDDY DALE 19 (D,F,G,5) G Hubbard 11-11-3	P Vesting	–
5	0-11	SINGLESOLE 26 (CD,F,6,5) Mrs P Sly 9-10-11	R Marley	–

7-4 Musthaveaswig, 2-1 Dont Tell The Wife, 4-1 Flashthecash, 6-1 Singlesole, 10-1 Cuddy Dale.

2.10 L L FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,022: 2m 110yd) (10)

1	-F56	COTAPAXI 7 (D,F,6) R Hodges 9-11-10	I Lawrence	–
2	30-4	NORTHERN SADDLER 23 (F,6,5) R Hodges 7-11-9	D Bridgwater	–
3	2030	ILEWIN 21 (D,F,6,5) M Ahern 7-11-8	M Ahern	–
4	43-2	MENAGHI 14 (D,6) J Mackie 7-11-5	N Williamson	–
5	4530	BUSTINELLO 19 (B,6) G Hubbard 6-11-3	P Vesting	–
6	-3PP	YOUNG ALRE 9 (B,D,5) J Parvin 9-10-12	A P McCoy (3)	–
7	545F	RUPPLES 19 (F,6) M Chapman 7-10-12	W Worthington	–
8	54P5	GREENHEART 2 (D,F,6) R Dean 11-10-11	A Procter (3)	–
9	0653	GLOSSY 13 (F,6) Mrs M McCourt 7-10-7	A S Smith	–
10	42-4	VULRORY'S CLOWN 131 (D,F,G,5) O Brennan 16-10-0	M Brennan	–

9-4 Menaghi, 3-1 Northern Saddler, 6-1 Ilewin, 8-1 Bustinello, Glossy, 10-1 Cotapaxi, 12-1 Rupples, 14-1 others.

2.40 COTTESMORE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,675: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1	-145	SIMWELL 19 (6) G Hubbard 6-11-10	G Bazin (7)	–
2	1420	ASK THE GOVERNOR 7 (BF,F,6,5) G Balding 8-11-2	A P McCoy (3)	–
3	-522	FAST THOUGHTS 17 (F,6,5) D Gandolfo 7-11-2	N Williamson	–
4	5-0U	MR GEE 30 F Cotton 9-11-2	Mrs G Adkin	–
5	2P53	REEF LARK 10 (F,5) S Camptson 9-11-2	P Mingley (3)	–
6	560-	SPRDWSTON BOY 226 (F,6,5) M Chapman 11-17-2	W Worthington	–
7	3U6P	RIP THE CALICO 47 (F) N Wingrove 6-10-11	J Ryan	–

5-4 Fast Thoughts, 7-4 Ask The Governor, 5-1 Simwell, 10-1 Reef Lark, 14-1 Spreyston Boy, 20-1 Rip The Calico, 33-1 Mr Gee

3.10 FAKENHAM RACECOURSE CARAVAN SITE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,772: 2m 4f) (10)

1	0P-3	MEZAN 16 (G) J Banks 6-12-0	S Keightley	–
2	6-56	MANEREE 19 (G,S) N Callaghan 7-11-9	R Campbell	–
3	5-00	KETTI 9 (F,S,5) D Williams 9-11-4	A P McCoy (3)	–
4	6P-1	RAFTERS 40 (D,S,5) J Bradley 5-10-12	N Williamson	–
5	3-53	THE CHANGELING 9 (G) C Bravery 5-10-4	M Hourigan	–
6	143/	OFFICER CADET 556 (S,5) Mrs L Jewett 7-10-2	J Railton	–
7	0P00	COMSTOCK 12 (G) J Whyte 7-10-0	D Bridgwater	–
8	33-4	DENBINGTON 87 (G) G Hubbard 6-10-0	P Vesting	–
9	5405	BALAAT 9 (D,F) M Chapman 5-10-0	W Worthington	–
10	0P-0	STRAIGHT LACED 15 (C,D,6) P Clarke 7-10-0	I Lawrence	–

9-4 Rafters, 7-2 Mezan, 6-1 Maneree, 8-1 Comstock, Ketti, 10-1 Officer Cadet, The Changeling, 14-1 others.

Blinkered first time

FAKENHAM: 12.40 Tendresse, 1.10 Casual Water, 1.40 Flashthecash. 2.10 Bustinello. HAYDOCK PARK: 12.50 Kayfaat. TAUNTON: 1.00 Court Jester, Fabulous Princess, War O' The Roses

TAUNTON

THUNDERER

1.00 Lying Eyes. 1.30 Magsood. 2.00 Fair Brother. 2.30 CHERYL'S LAD (nap). 3.00 Lake Mission. 3.30 It's Delicious. 4.00 Tickerty's Gift.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 LYING EYES.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 CHARD SELLING HURDLE
(£1,861: 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1	602	ELEGANT HUSSAR 6 R Rowe 4-11-5	D O'Sullivan	70
2	0F	KING REILLY 85 R Frost 4-11-5	J Frost	–
3	0-06	NORTHERN SINGER 14 R Hodges 4-11-5	B Powell	72
4	505-	IS SHE QUICK 230 N Dawe 4-11-0	S Burrough	81
5	50-0	URBAN LILY 8 R Hodges 4-11-0	A Tory	–
6	5331	LOOSE CHANGE 19 (V,S) G L Moore 3-10-6	M A Fitzgerald	77
7	2U50	COURT JESTER 14 (V) A Foster 3-10-5	J R Kavanagh	85
8	05	INDIAN TEMPLE 14 M Saunders 3-10-5	S McNeill	–
9	5	NORDIC VALLEY 108 M Pipe 3-10-5	R Dunwoody	–
10	20	PASSING PLAYER 22 F Jordan 3-10-5	J Lodder	78
11		UNISON 73F C Barwell 3-10-5	B Clifford	–
12	530U	FABULOUS PRINCESS 14 (B) C Popham 3-10-0	M Godolphin	(5) 77
13	5	GRACE 56 C Brooks 3-10-0	D Gallagher	70
14	P	LITTLE MINER 6 R Palling 3-10-0	R Farrant	–
15	52R	LYING EYES 6 W G M Turner 3-10-0	C Maude	(5) –
16	4000	WAR O' THE ROSES 16 (B) J Akehurst 3-10-0	Peter Hobbs	75

3-1 Loose Change, 5-1 Nordic Valley, 7-1 Grace, Lying Eyes, 8-1 others.

1.30 JEWSON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,814: 3m) (8)

1	-2U2	NAZZARD 13 (BF,5) W G M Turner 5-11-10	R Dunwoody	88
2	-3P5	MANOR RHYME 6 J McConnochie 7-11-8	S McNeill	93
3	13-2	CREGG BOREEN 13 (BF,G,5) P Hobbs 7-11-7	C Maude	89
4	/3-1	BADBURY LAD 22 (5) Mrs J Renfree-Barnes 8-11-4	R Greene	(5)
5	21F3	MAGSOOD 7 (C,G) J Mullins 9-11-3	S Curran (5)	96
6	4P5F	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 10 (F) B Llewellyn 6-11-3	Mr J L Llewellyn (5)	91
7	-PU1	ROMANY CREEK 6 (V,G) G Balding 5-11-2 (7ex)	B Clifford	97
8	00-6	OH SO WINDY 14 Mrs A King 7-10-1	W McFarland	–

5-2 Romany Creek, 3-1 Badbury Lad, Cregg Boreen, 9-2 Nazzard, 7-1 others.

2.00 GAY SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,615: 3m 110yd) (16)

1	8422	SECRET FOUR 15 (F,6,5) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-6	Mr M Rimell (7)	90
2	4-03	INDIAN RUN 6 (G) R Hodges 5-11-13	W McFarland	84
3	5-42	FAIR BROTHER 13 (C,6,5) G Balding 8-11-8	J Frost	95
4	6-52	POWLEYVALE 14 (BF,6,5) D Sherwood 7-11-5	J A McCarthy	93
5	-223	LANSDOWNE 13 (CD,5) G Ham 6-11-5	G Tormey (7)	96
6	205-	BEYOND OUR REACH 313 (G) R Hodges 6-11-2	D McCourt	95
7	411/	WOODLAND MINSTREL 822 (F,5) M Pipe 9-11-0	R Dunwoody	–
8	02-0	BUCKINGHAM GATE 10 (G,5) D Gandolfo 8-10-13	Miss S Mitchell (7)	98
9	-134	IRISH STAMP 22 (D,5) F Murphy 5-10-12	J R Kavanagh	97
10	32-3	JADI		

Andrew Longmore meets the sister realising a champion's dream

Senna's driving ambition lives on

ANDRE CAMARA



Viviane Lalli, the sister Senna confided in, is channelling her grief into helping the poor of São Paulo through the Ayrton Senna Foundation

The likeness is so acute, it takes your breath away. There are the handsome features, the ears, the cheekbones, the set of the lips and the tilt of the head. There is a glimpse of the arrogance, too, and the sensitivity. Viviane Lalli, wife, mother of three, practising psychologist and independent woman of the world had two lives once. But, at 6.40pm on May 1, being the sister of Ayrton Senna became a full-time occupation.

Lalli was in London briefly this week in her role as president of the Ayrton Senna Foundation, the charity set up by the family in the aftermath of Senna's death at the San Marino Grand Prix, which will channel the millions from her younger brother's lucrative commercial ventures — the Seninha cartoon character, the motor bike, the mountain bike and the clothing range, for example — into social and educational projects, based initially in his home city of São Paulo. The family has asked Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, the Formula One motor-racing team with which Senna won three world titles, Frank Williams, managing director of the Williams team, and Alain Prost to become members of the board. All have accepted..

But Lalli, at 37 three years older than her brother, will be the driving force. She cuts an impressive figure already, not tall, but elegant, smart and tough. It was said she taught Senna all he knew about the psychology of winning. He certainly valued her advice. In the week before he was killed, when he was depressed by personal troubles, he called Lalli. "We talked for a long time. He was very low, though I will not say why. It was the last time I talked to him."

She now spends ten hours a day in Senna's old office in São Paulo, opening letters, reading poems, accepting gifts, pictures, photographs, each tribute a reminder of what he meant to so many people and of how much she herself has lost. She has accepted the grief of so many others she has not had time for her own and, even now, seven months on, she talks of the accident and hurries to change the subject.

"I am still coming to terms with it. When I go to places where he has been or see pictures of him or read some of the poems, it affects me here," she said, pinching her throat. "Yes, I still cry a lot. I'm afraid I don't deal with it very well, but grieving is a slow process; it cannot be done overnight." Nor in public.

What has stunned Lalli and her family most has been the depth of feeling Senna's death has uncovered. "In Brazil, Japan and Europe, we knew he was important. But we have had letters from Lithuania, Pakistan and Afghanistan where they can know very little about Formula One. We have had letters from children of seven and grandmothers of 80, works of art from all over the world, all coming straight from the heart. We had no idea how passionately people felt about him."

Lalli watched the accident on television without realising how bad it was. Only slowly did the full horror unfold through regular phone calls from Leonardo, Senna's younger brother, who was at the hospital in Bologna. Like the rest of the world, she could not believe the truth. "The car hit the wall, there was no rolling, no fire, no great drama. Even when we knew he was brain-dead, I always believed he would return to us. We never thought for a minute that he would die on the track."

The first flowers arrived within minutes of the announcement on Brazilian television, along with a flood of notes and letters that has continued unstemmed to this day. One of the first came from George Harrison. Most were from people in the streets. All will be put on display in a special memorial to Senna in São Paulo.

In the midst of the emptiness, the development of the Senna Foundation has been a precious, if exhausting, outlet for Lalli's own emotions and energies. Senna had asked her to consider the possibility of setting it up before he left Brazil for the start of the season. She, with two girls, aged 15 and nine, and a boy of 11 to look after and a flourishing psychotherapy counselling practice to run, asked for time to think it over.

"We agreed to talk again when he came back home. After the accident, I had no choice." Because they were so close, she said, she has no difficulty in knowing what her brother would want. "He hated things to be disorganised in his life and he always pursued perfection in whatever he did. It's a family defect, I'm afraid. That means starting with projects from scratch and building them up so we can benefit whole communities."

One of the two projects to be launched in March to mark Senna's 35th birthday involves recycling the waste food from the central market in São Paulo to make fortified soup, enough for 26 million bowls a day, to be distributed to the poor; the other is a more specific scheme, organised by the university of São Paulo, to persuade the street children of the city back into society through sport. Five hundred children will spend their afternoons playing sport at the university, be fed and looked after, provided — and here is the catch — they go to school in the mornings. "The idea is not to create Olympic champions, but just to take some of these children away from crime and show them there is a better way," Lalli said.

The challenge is greater than anything her brother faced, but both projects have the smack of Senna about them, intensely practical yet streaked with idealism. Senna loved children and identified particularly with the orphans of São Paulo, with whom he shared a dislike of authority and a love of danger. They repaid his understanding in kind. On the day after Senna's death, there were no muggings, no robberies, no killings, no crime at all on the streets of São Paulo, one of the world's most violent cities.

Lalli recalls her younger brother as an urchin himself, always picking fights with bigger boys. She also remembers his eyes. "They had real sweetness in them, you know. Everyone said so." She has the same eyes, too.

Hill rewarded with pay rise

UNCERTAINTY still clouds the question of whether David Coulthard or Nigel Mansell will drive for the Williams Formula One team next season, but Damon Hill, at least, appears to have cemented his position (Oliver Holt writes). This year's world championship runner-up has been rewarded for his achievements with a substantial pay rise for 1995.

The increase in earnings, which is thought to have doubled the £500,000 salary he enjoyed this year, comes less than a month after Hill criticised the team owner, Frank Williams, for not making a suitable financial offer. Williams refused to comment on the issue at the time and Hill later said he regretted his outburst. But the pair have been locked in negotiations since they returned from Australia and a Williams spokeswoman confirmed yesterday that Hill has secured an improved deal.

"Frank was very happy with what Damon achieved," she said. "They sat down at the end of the season and reached an agreement that they were both happy with."

Hill assumed the leadership of the team after the death of Ayrton Senna and shouldered his new responsibilities with dignity and poise. But he saved his best performances until the final two races of the season, when he came close to snatching the title away from Michael Schumacher, of Germany.

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Larsson serves reminder of Edberg's sharp decline

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

DEFEAT in the first round of the Grand Slam Cup has brought to a premature conclusion Stefan Edberg's least distinguished year since 1986. The *coup de grâce* was applied by his Davis Cup colleague, Magnus Larsson, with whom he had been united in triumph last Sunday night.

Together, to celebrate Sweden's victory over Russia in the final, they had performed the conga in the Kremlin. In the less austere surroundings of the Olympiahalle, one of the world's most decorative indoor arenas, the compatriots yesterday led each other an equally merry dance.

Their duel was the best, the longest and the most competitive of the tournament so far. Edberg saved one match point in the tie-break in the second set and another towards the end of the third, before submitting 6-4, 6-7, 8-6 after more than two and a quarter hours.

The neat and elegant exponent of the serve and volley, he presented a contrasting image to Larsson, an ungainly and relatively dishevelled baseline player. The principal and, ultimately, crucial difference lay in the power and accuracy of the serve.

Edberg's, as he slips into the twilight of his career, tends nowadays merely to open negotiations for a point. Larsson's threatens immediately to end them. He discharged 23 aces, including an emphatic sequence of three in succession midway through the tie-break.

"It got him out of trouble on a number of occasions," Edberg commented drily. He was credited with more double faults than aces and his seventh, at 5-6 in the decisive set, put him on the edge of elimination. Two games later, a searing forehand down the line terminated his reprieve.

Once considered virtually invincible by his fellow countrymen, indignities are being inflicted with ominious regularity. Edberg, 28, was knocked out in the first round of the French Open by Henrik Holm and out of the third round of the US Open championship by Jonas Bjorkman.

A Dane, Kenneth Carlsen, also beat him in the second round at Wimbledon. But for reaching the semi-final of the Australian Open, he would not have qualified for the financial bonanza here.

Significantly, his world ranking has dropped to seventh, his lowest status for eight years. Physically tired after ten successive weeks of competition, he admitted to a sense of lethargy. Although he committed himself to defending the Davis Cup next year, he is to reduce the rest of his programme.



Larsson: accuracy

As Edberg descends, Larsson is heading in the opposite direction. Ranked nineteenth, the highest position of his career, the 24-year-old has been defeated in his last five tournaments only by Pete Sampras, twice, and Goran Ivanisevic. The sequence will be endangered tomorrow, though, when he meets Andre Agassi, the second seed.

Agassi removed Thomas Muster, a clay-court specialist, who attempted to upstage the Las Vegan by making a grand entrance in a grey, checked Tyrolean hat and coat. The bizarre garb raised a laugh but so, soon, did the actions of his opponent.

Agassi retreated beyond the baseline and, with his back to the net, hit a spectacular winner between his legs. He then paused to watch the replay on the television screen suspended high above a stage bedecked in seasonal colours of red and green, with illuminated Christmas trees guarding each corner.

Muster, momentarily distracted, served a double fault and yielded the first set. At 4-5 in the second, Agassi redressed the sense of fair play by voluntarily replaying a point he had been awarded before going through 6-3, 7-5 in under an hour and a half.

Moreover, he indicated that he would contribute some of his prize-money to a charity he has founded in his home city. He revealed that he pays the salaries of the three full-time workers employed "to keep kids off the streets and off drugs".

Results, page 44

RADIO CHOICE

Housing the public-spirited

Eyewitness: Squat. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Andrew O'Hagan's report invites us to rip off our blinkers and view squatters in a new light — not as parasites, scroungers and vandals, but as the embodiment of true community values. The outsiders have tranformed themselves into the insiders and, in the process, have become public benefactors. "The worst thing you can do to a house is to keep it empty," says a girl called Juno. "We're saving the taxpayer housing benefit," says Henry. And there is more in that vein. Salvaging the furniture their neighbours threw out of their back windows, they are society's unpaid disposal operatives. This is true democracy: one for all, all for one. It seems churlish even to think the words: "pull the other one".

Operama: Johnny Sheehy. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Luckily for us, Giovacchino Forzano and Christopher Fitz-Simon ignored Polonius's advice about never being a borrower. Forzano? Fitz-Simon? Forzano, Puccini's librettist for the one-act opera *Gianni Schicchi*, borrowed from Dante the tale of the rogue who, impersonating a dead man, confounds the expectations of his greedy family. In turn, the Irish playwright Fitz-Simon borrowed the idea from Forzano, and *Johnny Sheehy* is the rib-tickling result. The action is transferred from Forzano's Florence 1299 to County Cork 1911, and the transfer is a total success. Dermot Crowley, of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, plays the eponymous rogue. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **8.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lynn Parsons including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Goodier **4.00** Nicky Campbell with Drivetime, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session, including the 30-Minute Menu **9.00** Soundbite presented by Danny Kelly **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00-4.00am** Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** For Better or for Worse, starring Su Pollard and Gordon Kaye as the odd couple **8.00** Country Club, hosted by Radney Foster **9.00** Paul Jones presents a mixture of vintage rhythm and blues and the best of the recent releases **9.45** Gospel Train: The Esscofreys at the Newcourt Christian Centre **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden with Night Ride **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill including at **9.40** Film Review; **10.35** Euronews; **11.00** Gut Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, including at **12.34pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, including at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, including at **7.20** the day's sport in full **7.35** Women on Top, with Frances Edmonds **8.05** Arthur Smith on the Floor: live debate **9.05** SportsAmerica **10.05** News Talk, with Paul Reynolds **11.00** Night Extra, including at **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** Night Moves, with Steve Sampson **2.05** Up All Night, with Richard Dellyn

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newshour **6.00** Morgenmagazine **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Good Books **8.30** John Peel **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** Farming World **9.45** Sports **10.00** News **10.01** Assignment **10.30** It's a Funny Old World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.15** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Multirack **12.45** Sports **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf **2.45** The Learning World **3.00** News **3.15** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** World News **5.05** Business **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Kaleidoskop **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Network UK **10.45** Sports **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** It's a Funny Old World **12.00** News **12.15am** Music Review **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** On the Move **1.45** Global Concerns **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde **3.00** News **3.15** Sports **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.00** Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** The Travel Guide: Sicily **8.00** Evening Concert: Sibelius **10.00** Michael Meppin **1.00am** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyte **10.00** N.J. Williams **2.00-6.00am** Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather **7.00 On Air**, with Andrew McGregor. Vivaldi (Concerto in B flat, Conca); Humperdinck (Abends will ich schlafen gehen, Hänsel und Gretel); Shostakovich (Ballet Suite No 4); Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Grieg (*En Svane*, Op 25 No 2); Gibbons (The Silver Swan); Bax (The Tale the Pine Trees Knew: Ulster Orchestra under Bryden Thomson)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Ravel (Daphnis et Chloé: Montreal SO under Charles Dutoit)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. More songs from Schubert's *Winterreise*, sung by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau; and Liszt's transcriptions of them. **10.00** *Artist of the Week*: Tasmin Little, violin. Rubbra (Violin Concerto, Op 103); **10.35** Scarlatti (Sonatas: in C minor; in G minor; in B flat); Delius (Violin Sonata No 2); Brahms (Warum ist das Licht gegeben, Two Motets, Op 74 No 1); Mozart (Symphony No 1 in C: English Concert); George Lloyd (Sonata)
12.00 Ensemble: Jill Anderson presents the first of two recitals of French string music. Poulenc (Violin Sonata); Fauré (Berceuse, Op 16); Franck (Violin Sonata in A) (r)
1.00pm Opera Matinée: Der Ring des Nibelungen. Bayreuth Festival Orchestra under James Levine performs *Das Rheingold*. With Joyce Guyer as Woglinde, Sarah Fryer as Wellgunde, and Jane Turner as Flosshilde
4.00 Bach and Son: David Roblou, harpsichord. J.S. Bach (Capriccio in B flat. Sopra la lontananza del suo fratello dilettissimo; Four two-part inventions; Four three-part inventions); C.P.E. Bach (Variations on *La Folie d'Espagne*; Minuet in C minor; Marche in D; Polonaise in G minor, Anna Magdalena Bach, Notebook 2); J.S. Bach (Ricercare a 3, Musical Offering)
5.00 The Music Machine: Julian Gregory looks at 1970s progressive rock
5.15 In Tune: Humphrey Carpenter talks to the conductor Daniel Harding; **6.00** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 6 in B flat); Bartók (Rhapsody No 1 for violin and orchestra)
7.30 La traviata: Sir Georg Solti conducts Verdi's opera in Richard Eyre's new production, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in a simultaneous broadcast with BBC2. With Angela Gheorghiu, soprano, as Violetta; and Frank Lopardo, tenor, as Alfredo. Introduced by James Naughtie. Act 1; **8.10 Consuming Passions:** A comparison of the response of 19th-century artists to tuberculosis with that of 20th-century artists to Aids (r). **9.00** La traviata, Act 2; **10.10 In a Word:** Jeremy J. Beadle on futurism; **10.40** *La traviata*, Act 3
11.20 Night Waves: The new production of *Oliver!*
12.00-1.00am Voices: French cabaret songs

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day, with Elaine Storkey **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze: Michael Buerk chairs a discussion sparked by one of the week's news stories. With Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Janet Daley, Edward Pearce and Dr David Starkey
10.00-10.30 News; No Commitments (FM only), by Simon Brett. With Rosemary Leach and Nicola Pagett
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Hindu Scriptures (LW only): Stories from the Hindu tradition (r)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News: You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm The Year in Question: BBC World Service's *Outlook* v GMTV **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Operama: Johnny Sheehy. See Choice
3.00 Anderson Country, with Gerry Anderson
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen reviews John Mortimer's interpretation of Dickens's classic, *A Christmas Carol*, for the royal Shakespeare Company
4.45 Short Story: The Party, by Frank O'Connor
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Harry Hill's Fruit Corner: Minicab drivers
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Eyewitness: Squat. See Choice
8.00 Analysis: After the disastrous mid-term elections for President Clinton and the Democratic Party, Susie Symes asks whether Americans no longer see politicians as having a legitimate role
8.45 Medical Notes: Michael Oliver investigates the illnesses and death of Nicolo Paganini
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The programme for listeners with disabilities
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Poor Things, by Alasdair Gray. Read by Fiona Bell and Jimmy Chisholm
11.00 Stanza: Simon Armitage listens to the 50-year creative partnership of jazz and poetry. With contributions from Langston Hughes, Stan Tracey, Michael Horowitz and Adrian Mitchell
11.30-12.00 Just a Part of the Furniture (FM only): The first in a series of three programmes looking at everyday pieces of furniture: What does our choice of chair say about us? (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Five hundred reasons not to visit Australia

There's never been much of a shortage of reasons for not going to Australia. The beer, *Neighbours*, Shane Warne . . . I could go on. But top of my list has always been the continent's extraordinarily frightening wildlife, whose guiding principle appears to be that if the deadly poison doesn't get you, well no worries mate, I'll swallow you whole.

Sharks the size of submarines, spiders which have made venom a career and more snakes than you'd find in a month of nightmares. Did I forget something? Oh yes — enough lizards to make *Jurassic Park* look like a daytime soap. According to **Lizards of Oz**, the latest in BBC1's *Wildlife Showcase*, Australia is lizard heaven on earth. They just love it.

Sadly, that's a sentiment that I cannot reciprocate. I knew I was in trouble when the opening titles had me adopting a viewing position that I hadn't used since the early days of *Dr Who*. When I did finally emerge from behind the sofa, after half an hour of murder, rape and non-consensual amputations (no-one told me that the tail keeps on moving — ugh!) a single thought was uppermost. Bring back *Cracker*, all is forgiven.

The horror was unrelenting. Dragons, devils, geckoes, goannas and something new and slithery called a skink flashed before us. Appalling fact followed appalling fact, made all the more horrible by the type of deadpan narration last heard in *Programmes for Schools* c.1971. Did we know that Australia has more than 500 species of lizard? I did not. Had we ever realised that a single sand-ridge in the spinifex desert could be home to 47 different types of lizard? Really, how, er, interesting. And did we know there are legless lizards that look exactly like snakes? Super, I thought weakly, making a mental note to keep at least 12,000 miles between me and whatever this spinifex stuff was.

Just to avoid any confusion, a few real snakes were also thrown in, as well as scenes from that horror classic *Nightmare on Termite Street*. You know the one — where Freddie, the pygmy python, is chasing Gordon, the termite gecko, through all those tunnels. Swallows him whole, of course. A few seconds later something long, black and terrifying ate a skink. "Eat or be eaten is the inexorable law for lizards — and for snakes," said the helpful man from schools television.

But food, as he leeringly pointed out, wasn't the only thing on the menu. Now, I can't think of anything more frightening than meeting one eight-foot perenti. Or I couldn't until the programme stumbled across *two* eight-foot perenti enjoying a bit of how's-your-father behind a bush. Never mind the dance with no steps, this was a beast with two backs I wasn't keen to meet again.

No such hazards awaited Evelyn Glennie as she flew into South Korea for **Great Journeys** (BBC 2) in search of the country's musical culture. Glennie may not have been to Korea before but she had done her homework. "All I know of its culture is its American style pop music and classical virtuosos like Kyung-Wha Chung," she said over the now compulsory opening shot of an aeroplane landing. That put her two up on me, at least.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

In fact, at times it sounded as if Glennie might have done too much homework, as she rattled off historical and geographical facts about Korea with all the authority of a guidebook. Or should that be, from the guidebook? But such minor carping aside, Glennie proved to be a charming and witty guide on her well thought out tour of Buddhist bells, Confucian songs and shamanist sea ceremonies.

She toyed with us briefly, visiting a special school for art, ballet and music whose orchestra was long on violins but distinctly short of percussionists. "No percussionists. That really is amazing," said a worried-looking Glennie. But the panic lasted all of two seconds, before she revealed what she had known all along, that "Korea, in fact, is a nation of drummers".

Much pretentious nonsense has been written about the international language of music, which made seeing a native Korean speaker reach a profoundly deaf Scottish percussionist to play the *changgo* — and succeeding — all the more powerful as an image.

Korea, Glennie discovered, was particularly keen on the idea of culture by numbers. She visited a 700-year-old village (tangible cultural asset No 69) watched an ancient mask dance (intangible national treasure No 121) and sat by a beautiful carp lake (historic site No 18). So I rather feared for the distinguished professor, whom, despite his clear reservations about her *changgo* technique, she described as a "living example of Korean national culture". How long before a Korean civil servant descended on him, clutching a "living cultural example No 1" identity tag?

Actually, name tags might not be a bad idea for those having trouble with the growing complexities of **Between the Lines** (BBC 1). Some nice big badges with "MI5". "Special Branch" or "Ensis" might be just what's needed to decipher lines such as: "Your client is Five and they want to carve up the police and they want us to do for them." Or perhaps each character could raise a hand each time the department they work for is mentioned. Then again, some of them would run out of hands.

Last night's episode was a Byzantine tale of a group of east London neo-Nazis smuggling German machineguns into the country to wipe out drug-dealing Yardies. Or was it MI5? Or was it "offside" members of MI5, who under the new system could be represented by a diagonal line through the name? Hands up anyone who knows. Anyone? Someone?

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast with Paul Burden, Sara Coburn and Heather Payton (15779)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (29114021)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (8057682)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9120514) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick**. Weekday magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (46072311)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4038935) **12.05 Pebble Mill** with Alan Titchmarsh (s) (6464682) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (14622156)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (35972)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (35805798) **1.50 The Great British Quiz** hosted by Philip Hayton (s) (35809514)

2.15 FILM: Copacabana (1985) starring Barry Manilow, Annette O'Toole and Estelle Getty. A musical about a struggling 1940s songwriter who becomes romantically involved with an ambitious chorus girl. Directed by Waris Hussein (s) (857576)

3.50 Brum (s) (2127717) **4.05 The Animals of Farthing Wood** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4301972) **4.30 The Boot Street Band**. (Ceefax) (s) (8435885)

4.55 Newsround (4026514) **5.05 Blue Peter**. (Ceefax) (s) (3140971)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (665798)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (427)

6.30 Regional news magazines (779)

7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (7427)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (663)



Emma needs a new liver to survive (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE Children's Hospital. (Ceefax) (6175)

8.30 The Vicar of Dibley. Comedy series starring Dawn French as a woman vicar. (Ceefax) (5682)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8750)

9.30 Crocodile Shoes. Drama serial starring Jimmy Nail as a northern factory worker with dreams of country and western fame. Jed returns to Newcastle to face a bleak future with his workmates now redundant and his sister on the game. But then he learns that his old friend Jock has left him a substantial amount of money. With James Wilby and Amy Madigan. (Ceefax) (s) (706779)

10.25 Question Time from Belfast. David Dimbleby's guests include Sir Patrick Mayhew. (Ceefax) (9410040). **Wales:** The Slate 10.55 Question Time 11.55-1.30am Attack on Terror

11.25 Attack on Terror. Part two of the drama about FBI agents who infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan in order to investigate the murder of three civil rights workers. Starring Wayne Rogers, Andrew Duggan, Marilyn Mason, Peter Strauss, Ned Beatty and Rip Torn (145040). **Northern Ireland:** Midnight Caller 12.20am-1.50 Film: Penalty Phase

1.00am Weather (3809880). Ends at **1.05**

3.00-3.30 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (r) (56606)

BBC2

7.00 The Tooth Fairies (r) (4301069) **7.05 Funnybones** (r) (s) (4393040) **7.10 Thundercats** (r) (2885663) **7.35 Growing Up Wild** (r) (s) (8578750)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (9733798) **8.15 The Record** (4121934) **8.35 Discovering Animals** (r) (9813311)

9.00 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga (r) (7285330) **9.10 Crawshaw Paints Oils**. A guide to oil painting (8535779) **9.35 The Way of the Lakes** (r) (6978866) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (5411088)

10.25 FILM: Bandit Ranger (1942, b/w) starring Tim Holt. Western directed by Lesley Selander (4229040)

11.20 FILM: A Lady without Passport (1950, b/w) starring Hedy Lamarr and John Hodiak. Drama directed by Joseph H. Lewis (6462779)

12.30 Working Lunch (25446)

1.00 Fingermouse (r) (44387224) **1.15 The Rich Traditions** (466663) **1.45 Making Tracks** (r) (80258175)

2.10 Carol and Company (s) (92414408) **2.35 What a Carry On!** (r) (8854682)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross** (8198427) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (4165137)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (392)

4.30 From the Edge. Current affairs magazine from a disabled perspective. (Ceefax) (s) (576)

5.00 Keeping the Light. The Needles lighthouse on the day the last keepers leave (7040)

6.00 FILM: Gunfight at Comanche Creek (1964) starring Audie Murphy. Western drama directed by Frank McDonald (34392)



Sir Georg Solti conducts Verdi (7.30pm)

7.30 La Traviata. Richard Eyre's new production of Verdi's opera, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, conducted by Sir Georg Solti. With Angela Gheorghiu (soprano) as Violetta and the tenor Frank Lopardo in the role of Alfredo (893717)

NB: the following times are approximate

8.10 CHOICE Forbidden Britain: Unemployment. (Ceefax) (s) (364525)

8.50 La Traviata. Act two (1553576)

10.00 Top Gear. Includes a look at car production in South Korea (s) (76682)

10.30 La Traviata. Act three (540595)

11.10 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (797601)

11.55 Weather (879514)

12.00 News (Ceefax) followed by **The Midnight Hour**. The day in Parliament (2387335). Ends at **12.55am**

4.00-5.15 The Hitachi Royal Institution Discourse (73267) **5.00 Bridges from Physics** (6470441)

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CHOICE



Chris Tummings, Malcolm Frederick (C4, 11.05pm)

Get Up, Stand Up
Channel 4, 11.05pm

White liberal consciences are on the line as three black comedians, Malcolm Frederick, Chris Tummings and Angie Le Mar, present a show of sketches and stand-up routines. It is fine that black talent should find an outlet. The danger is putting it into a ghetto where it is either overpraised out of political correctness or dismissed as being marginal to the dominant culture. Let us walk gingerly through the minefield. Like any show of this type, *Get Up, Stand Up* is variable in quality. Several of the items have no racial content. Where they do the tone is good-natured, though the underlying message is clear, whether it is black immigrants being "welcomed" to Britain or the lament of a black actor who only gets cast as a villain.

Witness: Myra Hindley — A Life Sentence
Channel 4, 9.00pm

An announcement is expected soon from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, about the future of Myra Hindley, who is serving a life sentence for her part in the moors murders. He has to decide whether she will ever be released and, if so, when. The film traces the history of the case, which goes back to the 1960s, and looks at the arguments for her release from both sides. Even after more than 30 years passions still run high. There are those who think that Hindley has paid for her crimes and should be freed. Families of the victims, not surprisingly, take a different view. The discussion is widened in order to examine what attitudes towards Hindley say about the British sense of compassion, forgiveness and justice.

Children's Hospital
BBC1, 8.00pm

Claire is 11 but stands only 3ft 9ins. Her condition is called achondroplastic dwarfism and she is not happy about it. The remedy is to have her legs lengthened and there is no better place to go than the Children's Hospital in Sheffield. The process, however, is a painful one, involving bones being broken and gradually pulled apart so that new bone is stimulated to grow. It also takes three years to complete, during which Claire will be confined to a wheelchair. The film follows her through a harrowing time as she decides whether to go ahead. For nine-month-old Emma, the choice is clear-cut. She has a progressive liver disease and a transplant is her only hope of survival. But will a new organ become available in time?

Forbidden Britain
BBC2, 8.10pm

The oral history series signs off with another strong film, looking at government schemes for dealing with mass unemployment during the 1930s. Much of it is little charted territory. One idea was to buy up farms in southern England and create smallholdings for unemployed families from the north. But the project collapsed after three years. A harsher expedient was the Government labour camp, officially an "instructional centre". The idea was to toughen up and discipline men who were accused of losing the will to work. Victims recall the experience as being like a prison camp. Even the prospect of agricultural work in Canada, with the Government loaning the fare, proved illusory. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (6248088)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (6534040) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5498137)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (7563514)

10.35 This Morning (56426156) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (8638999)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (8315601)

12.55 Emmerdale (r). (Teletext) (8390392) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (53791408)

1.55 Vanessa (s) (80232137) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (92439717) **2.50 Gardeners' Diary** (9695929)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) and weather (6890717) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6899088)

3.30 The Riddlers (2118069) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (4163779) **3.50 Britt Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Mumfie** (s) (2112885) **4.05 Astro Farm** (Teletext) (s) (2862408) **4.20 Garfield and Friends** (r) (5974750) **4.45 Bad Influence!** (s) (6425408)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6295840)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (268934)

5.55 Your Shout. Members of the public air their views (624682)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (595)

6.30 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (175)

7.00 Emmerdale. The lives and loves of the farming folk. Kathy is driven to desperation when she is confronted with the truth (Teletext) (2595)

7.30 The Big Story with Dermot Murnaghan (s) (359)

8.00 The Bill. Cryer suspects the worst when a woman goes missing. (Teletext) (1243)

8.30 The Cook Report. Roger Cook and his team of investigators make life uncomfortable for more shady characters (4250)



Pooky Quesnel and David Morrissey (9.00pm)

9.00 Finney starring David Morrissey. Gangland chief Bobo Simpson and Finney agree to make peace between the warring families, and Finney hopes for a reconciliation with his estranged wife, Carol (Pooky Quesnel). (Teletext) (s) (3311)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (70408)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (258345)

10.40 Revelations. Drama following the fortunes of a bishop's family (s) (312243)

11.10 Big City with Paul Ross and Carolyn Marshall (s) (402446)

11.40 NEW World Cup Ski Extra. Action from this week's World Cup races (639798)

12.10am The Beat (r) (s) (2393996)

1.10 The Little Picture Show (r) (639798)

2.10 The Album Show (r) (s) (5403809)

3.10 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (70648489)

3.40 Quiz Night. London's Marie Lloyd v Poole's Albion (66352828)

4.10 Donahue meets members of Roseanne's family (2007719)

5.00 Videofashion (r) (30170)

5.30 ITN Morning News (20644). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Terrytoons. Classic cartoon series (7406021)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (25595)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (80885)

9.30 Evening Shade. Comedy series (s) (16798)

10.00 The Magic Of Bing Crosby. The story of the crooner's life (r) (5218040)

10.55 Mighty Mouse. Cartoon (9682137)

11.00 The Stolen River. A *Fragile Earth* documentary about the devastation caused by drought at a Botswana watering hole (r) (24866)

12.00 House to House (60021)

12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning entertainment (40972) **1.30 The Bluffers** (r) (19885)

2.00 FILM: Untamed (1955) starring Susan Hayward and Tyrone Power. African epic about an Irish immigrant facing danger, death and widowhood on the Great Trek. Directed by Henry King (Teletext) (6804)

4.00 Profiles Of Nature: The Roseate Spoonbill. A film by Walter and Myrna Berlet capturing the pink waterbird from feeding to nesting (r) (208)

4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (972)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Three guests were once officially declared dead, while the others are mothers who gave birth in unusual circumstances (r) (Teletext) (s) (5792514)

5.50 Terrytoons. Cartoons (614205)

6.00 Home Improvement. Comedy series about an American DIY television programme host (r) (Teletext) (s) (137)

6.30 Roseanne. American wisecracking comedy (r). (Teletext) (s) (717)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (178779)

7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (356359)

8.00 Beat That Einstein On Hampshire Heath Richard Vranch challenges the team to recover two stranded Army tanks (Teletext) (s) (9885)

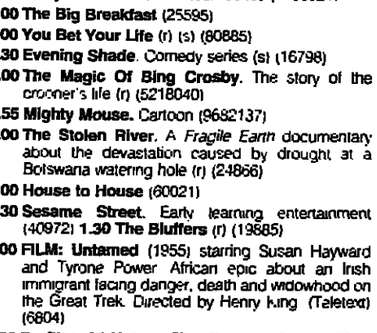
8.30 Spirit of Trees In the third of his eight-part series, Dick Warner investigates tree planting (r). (Teletext) (8392)

9.00 CHOICE Witness (Teletext) (s) (1953)

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Wickedly funny topical comedy series set in a television newsroom (s) (61750)

10.30 Bakersfield P.D.. American police comedy series (Teletext) (s) (806663)

11.05 CHOICE Get Up, Stand Up (s) (401717)



Teenage girls explore adolescence (11.35pm)

11.35 Female Parts. Animation and documentary exploring the painful process of childhood to adulthood (r) (Teletext) (501494)

12.40am Dispatches (r). (Teletext) (7694538)

1.30 Key West. Off-beat American comedy series (s) (1582064)

2.25 FILM: The Undying Monster (1942, b/w) starring James Ellison, Heather Angel and John Howard. A werewolf chiller set in turn-of-the-century England. Directed by John Brahm (1177408). Ends at **3.35**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (35893953) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (9695929) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6295840) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (333359) **10.30** Anglia News (258345) **10.40** Marquee (312243) **11.10** Phoenix (151137) **12.10am** Married with Children (9090880) **12.35** Tropical Heat (6013712) **1.30** Superstars of Wrestling (6339977) **2.10** America's Top Ten (1849441) **2.40** Prelude to Fame (2142248) **4.10** Jobfinder (11686606) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (7238083)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (35893853) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (9695929) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6295840) **6.25** Central News and Weather (995682) **6.55-7.00** Life Line (133175) **11.10-1.10pm** The 1994 World Music Awards (9125514) **3.35am-3.40** On the Live Side (49402593) **4.10** Jobfinder (6841809) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (9955248)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (8390392) **1.25** Home and Away (27575156) **1.50** Vanessa (80233866) **2.20** Highdays and Holidays (92421798) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (9695929) **5.10-5.40** Countdown to Christmas (6295840) **6.25** Granada Tonight (333359) **7.00-7.30** Emmerdale (2595) **10.40** Revelations (312243) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (440156) **12.05am** Love at First Sight (8841731) **12.35** Tropical Heat (6013712) **1.30** Wrestling (6339977) **2.10** America's Top Ten (1849441) **2.40** Prelude to Fame (2142248) **4.10** Jobfinder (11686606) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (7238083)

HTV WEST
As London except: 2.25 Gardening Time (32420069) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (8881972) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6295840) **5.55** Home and Away (654682) **6.25-7.00** HTV News (333359) **10.40** That's My Home (312243) **11.10** Midweek (402446) **11.40** The West This Week (639798) **12.10am** Married with Children (9090880) **12.35** Tropical Heat (6013712) **1.30** Superstars of Wrestling (6339977) **2.10** America's Top Ten (1849441) **2.40** Prelude to Fame (2142248) **4.10** Jobfinder (11686606) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (7238083)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: **6.25-7.00** Wales Tonight (333359) **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week (359) **10.40** Wales on the Western Front (312243) **11.10** Special Report (402446) **11.40-12.10pm** The Big Story (639798)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (35893953) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9695929) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6295840) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (595) **6.30-7.00** Time Off (175) **10.40** My Blue Heaven (55544088) **12.30am-1.10** Ready When You Are (1072248) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (30170)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 2.25 The Sullivans (92420069) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News, Weather (6899088) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6295840) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (97663) **10.30** Westcountry News, Weather (258345) **10.40** Westcountry Focus: The West at Work (312243) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (440156) **12.05am** Coach (8841731) **12.35** Tropical Heat (6013712) **1.30** Superstars of Wrestling (6339977) **2.10** America's Top Ten (1849441) **2.40** Prelude to Fame (2142248) **4.10** Jobfinder (11686606) **4.35-5.30** Cue the Music (7238083)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (35893953) **2.50-3.20** The Young Doctors (9695929) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6295840) **5.55** Calendar (328334) **6.30-7.00** Runway (175) **10.40** Eat V (557885) **11.25** Prisoner Cell Block H (438311) **12.20am** Night Moves (229002) **2.10** America's Top Ten (1849441) **2.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (7431915) **3.10** Memories of 1970-1991 (7031606) **4.05-5.30** Jobfinder (9187731)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25595) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (80885) **9.30** Evening Shade: Graduation Show (16798) **10.00** The Magic Of Bing Crosby (5218040) **10.55** Mighty Mouse (9682137) **11.00** The Stolen River (24866) **12.00pm** House To House (60021) **12.30** Sioc Maihmn Dalydd a Baw ac Owain a Henri 88 (10514) **1.00** Hufabalco (29882) **1.30** What Has Become Of Us? (416011) **2.30** Moving Edna (408) **3.00** Ride On (8155) **3.30** Flicia Lake, My Friend Needs Advice When It Comes To Women (1032408) **4.20** Terrytoons (8210040) **4.30** The Cosby Show No More Mister Nice Guy 88 (972) **5.00** 5 Pump - Nyc Nyc Nos! Nos! (3601) **5.30** Fifteen To One (224) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (571773) **6.20** Hano (315682) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (9327) **7.30** Mr O Glyn (57663) **8.30** Newyddion/news (8392) **9.00** Ana Cerddonaeth I Bawb (1953) **10.00** Drop The Dead Donkey (61750) **10.30** London Kills Me (68175) **12.30am** Bettersea Bardot (83625) **1.00** Chez New House Of Glass (52860)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (31364224) **8.45** Cartoons (5043021) **9.30** Card Sharks (65088) **10.00** Concentration (1015446) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7525427) **10.30** Candid Camera (37717) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75514) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (28068) **12.30pm** E Street (36576) **1.00** Falcon Crest (64359) **2.00** A Man Called Intrepid (58359) **3.00** The Dukes of Hazzard (6576) **3.50** DJ Kat (5616040) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (64776) **6.00** Gameworld (6089) **6.30** Blockbusters (5791) **7.00** E Street (1885) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6205) **8.00** A Mind to Kill: Second of a six-part mini-series (89682) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (63507) **11.00** David Letterman (333427) **11.45** WKOU (234311) **12.45am** Barney Miller (90083) **1.15-1.45** Night Court (97996)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (7234863) **9.30** Sky News Extra (67088) **10.30** ABC Nightline (35358) **1.30pm** CBS News (32040) **2.30** Parliament Live (89514) **5.00** Live at Five (7155040) **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (16704021) **9.30** Worldwide Report (18427) **11.30** CBS News (36330) **12.30am** ABC News (7663712) **1.10** Richard Littlejohn (7177002) **2.30** Parliament Replay (85638) **4.30** CBS News (15480) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (60286)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (9844682) **10.00 California Man** (1992) (30392) **12.00 The Jokers** (1966) (191885) **1.40pm Flight of the Phoenix** (1966) (97074514) **4.00 A Case of Deadly Force** (1986) (5088) **6.00 California Man** (1992) As 10am (61224) **7.30 El Ness Week in Review** (4601) **8.00 Death Becomes Her** (1992) (74750) **10.00 Doppelganger** (1992) (831040) **11.45 A Better Tomorrow** (1986) (910576) **1.20am Fierce One** Martial arts thriller (227809) **2.55 Nobody's Perfect** (1990) (4454064) **4.20-6.00 A Case of Deadly Force** (1986) As 4pm (432248)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm The Spy Who Came In from the Cold (1966) (57021) **8.00 The Seven Year Itch** (1955) (69888) **10.00-12.00 Omen III: The Final Conflict** (1981) (28021)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Innocents (1961) (21525) **8.00 Around the World in 80 Days:** Animated version (70381) **9.00 Brer Rabbit** (1991) Cartoon (98785) **10.00 The Ambassador's Daughter** (1956) (58622040) **11.45 The Trouble with Angels** (1966) (58366359) **2.00pm Fort Massacre** (1958) (3450514) **3.25 The New Adventures of Robin Hood. Animation** (3334069) **4.20 Around the World in 80 Days** As 8am (8653175) **5.10 Brer Rabbit** (1991): As 9am (2780778) **6.00 Guinevere** (1993) (63525) **8.00 Tainted Blood** (1992) (38017885) **9.40 Midnight Sting** (1992) (951243) **11.20 Tales of Erotica** (1991) (124494) **1.10am Highway to Hell** (1992) (967915) **2.45 The Borrower** (1991) (508828) **4.20-6.00 The Ambassador's Daughter** (1956): As 10am (423116)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Soccer News (4545243) **7.15** WWF Challenge (884205) **8.15** Soccer News (7442953) **8.30** Rugby Club (48392) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (34205) **10.00** Sailing (54069) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (28156) **12.30pm** NBA Basketball (79446) **2.30** Windsurfing (9798) **3.00** The Rugby Club (81576) **4.00** Watersports (93311) **5.00** WWF Action Zone (4514) **6.00** Soccer News (712446) **6.15** Sports Classics (700601) **6.30** Rugby Union (1779) **7.00** Sports Awards (10576) **8.00** Torvill and Dean (23040) **10.00** Soccer News (299311) **10.15** Sports Awards (489953) **11.15-1.15am** Tennis (228206)

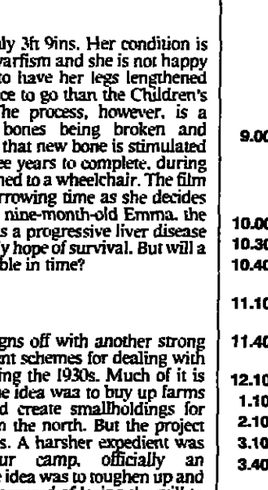
EUROSPORT
7.30am Step Aerobics (89934) **8.00** Equestrianism (50427) **9.00** Eurotanne (28311) **10.00** Dancing (22445) **11.00** Samba Football (10311) **1.00pm** Car Racing (51972) **2.00** Motors (85427) **3.00** Truck Racing (8330) **3.30** Eurofun (9311) **4.00** Snowboarding (8446) **4.30** Triathlon (74717) **5.30** Superbike (59972) **6.30** News (9176) **7.00** Combat Sports (38972) **8.00** Wrestling (14392) **9.00** Football (85392) **10.30** Football: Champions League (98773) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (74101)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (1145040) **8.30** Peyton Place (1144311) **9.00** As the World Turns (8319330) **10.00** Guiding Light (8491382) **11.00-12.00** Another World (8411156)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Discover Your World (1155427) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (7714156) **1.00** Cruising the Globe (8415972) **1.30** Cooking in France (7713427) **2.00** American Adventurer (4337779) **2.30** San Francisco (3493801) **3.00** Discover Your World (4946514) **3.30** The Way of Life (3405446) **4.00** Cruising the Globe (3484953) **4.30** Kids Down Under (3480137) **5.00** San Francisco (4351358) **5.30** Cooking in France (3404717) **6.00** Gelaway (3494390) **6.30** American Adventurer (3485682) **7.00** Discover Your World (4331595) **7.30** Around the World in 30 Minutes (3481866) **8.00** Sky Travel Guide (7748040) **9.00** Getaway (9788243) **9.30** Vancouver and Banff (4048021) **10.30** Alaska (1132576) **10.30** Cooking in France (1132576) **11.00** Australia (9700068) **11.30-12.00** The Way of Life (4611798)

TLC
9.00am Successful Sugarcraft (3011205) **9.30** High Days Christmas Special (4904885) **10.00** Parents Talking (88386882) **10.30** Only Human (7208021) **11.30** Decisions, Decisions (6517779) **12.00** The Sick Kids (3031069) **12.30pm** Cash in Hand (4908601) **1.00** High Days Christmas Special (4762232) **1.30** Successful Sugarcraft (4907972) **2.00** Draw with Don (53703685) **2.15** Extra Dimensions (4643798) **3.00** Flowering Passions (6201446) **3.30-4.00** Furniture to Go (4636717)

UK GOLD
7.00am The Sullivans (7017309) **7.30** Neighbours (8562494) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3023040) **8.30** EastEnders (3022311) **9.00** The Bill (3013663) **9.30** Coldiitz (6509427) **10.30** The Lotus Eaters (46224972) **11.35** The Sullivans (11616243) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (3033427) **12.30pm** Neighbours (49173591) **1.00** EastEnders (2962250) **1.30** The Bill (4909330) **2.00** Robin's Nest (6291069) **2.30** I Didn't Know You Cared (4626330) **3.00** Knots Landing (6513953) **4.00** Dynasty (6532088) **5.00** Every Second Counts (8697885) **5.35** Top of the Pops (8002682) **5.55** Terry and June (6606576) **6.30** EastEnders (4618311) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (5428634) **8.00** I Didn't Know You Cared (52713005) **8.30** Robin's Nest (6283040) **9.00** Minder (54574446) **10.00** The Bill (30341564) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5671589) **11.10** Rory Bremner (4090069) **11.50** Dr Who (8966544) **12.20am** The Goodies (7386712) **12.55** Squadron (69642915) **2.00** Shopping



Chris Eubank, Best Dressed Sportsman? (Sky Sports, 7pm)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Rainbow III (7235392) **6.15** Clyde (844427) **6.45** Casper (843798) **7.15** Head to Head in 3D (3569427) **7.25** Garfield (7628021) **7.55** Saved by the Bell (23473992) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (3774069) **8.45** Tiltou (1656322) **8.50** Corocinel (1654576) **9.00** It's Droibee Time (73243) **10.00** Paddington (20175) **11.00** Kitty Cats (37779) **11.30** Barney (38408) **12.00** Casper (62514) **12.30pm** Head to Head in 3D (64756392) **12.40** Garfield (8350972) **1.10** You Can't Do That on Television (89629601) **1.40** Super Mario Brothers (87862243) **1.55** Tiltou (87868427) **2.00** Barney (3427) **2.30** Care Bears (1798) **3.00** Tic Tac Toons (8212243) **3.15** Bobby's World (457040) **3.45** Head to Head in 3D (79678868) **4.00** The Bots Master (5750) **4.30-5.00** Saved by the Bell (1934)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Nickalive! (4543885) **7.15** Grimmy (2913111) **7.45** Rugrats (290682) **8.15** Rocko's Modern Life (7440696) **8.30** Slimer and the Real Ghostbusters (7826408) **8.45** Nickalive! (7814663) **9.00** Nick Jr (385137) **12.00** The Muppet Show (26798) **12.30pm** Gabby High School (36663) **1.00** Doug (13972) **1.30** Chipmunks (35934) **2.00** Denver (9069) **2.30** Smoggies (2840) **3.00** Nick Faves (6576) **3.30** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (2985) **4.00** Teenage Hero Turtles (1392) **4.30** Rugrats (75776) **5.00** Clarissa Explains It All (3021) **5.30** Doug (1156) **6.00** Rocko's Modern Life (8069) **6.30-7.00** Dracula (7549)

DISCOVERY
4.00 Deep Probe Expeditions (6523330) **5.00** Islands (6292798) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (4983392) **7.00** Encyclopedia Galactica (6293427) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World (4612137) **8.00** Fork in the Road (6302175) **8.30** Skybound (6281682) **9.00** Special Forces (6529514) **9.30** Crime Stalker (4995137) **10.00** Wild Wheels (5458775) **11.00** The Beer Hunter (6531358) **11.30-12.00** Life in the Wild (8834866)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM Woman Hater (1948). A misogynist meets a misanthropist. With Stewart Granger (8845872) **2.00pm** thirty-something (8833137) **3.00** My Three Sons (6258972) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (4623243) **4.00** FILM An Alligator Named Daisy (1957). A young man's life is turned upside down with the arrival of a lovelorn reptile (6209088) **6.00** Death Valley Days (4829427) **6.30** I Spy (4427392) **7.30** Car 54, Where Are You? (4609633) **8.00** thirty-something (5422750) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (6516040) **9.30** FILM: The Witches (1969). Starring Joan Fontaine (9858514) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (8821392)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (2368330) **7.00** Living Magazine (9966040) **8.00** The Treatment (2810779) **8.30** Women Mean Business (2802750) **9.00** Della Smith's Christmas (7363750) **9.35** Definition (6164514) **10.00** Trivia Trap (9815717) **10.30** Susan Powter (2822514) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8874224) **12.00** Through the Looking Glass (1422446) **12.35pm** Kilroy (9718601) **1.30** Family Affairs (7906021) **2.00** Agony Hour (9816446) **3.00** Living Magazine (7293798) **3.45** Gladrags (17367446) **4.00** Infatuation UK (5203427) **4.30** Definition (16220224) **4.55** Masterchef (4370446) **5.30** Kate and Allie (5283663) **6.00** Maternal World (5280576) **6.30** Mr and Mrs (5204158) **7.00** Living Magazine (9642040) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (9666088) **9.00** FILM Something So Right (1982) (9661175) **11.00** Susan Powter (1092972) **11.30** Infatuation UK (9804601)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm Timbn (4779) **5.30** Boogies Diner (5514) **6.00** African Skies (2427) **6.30** Through the Keyhole (3779) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (7243) **7.30** The Wonder Years (2663) **8.00** Snowy River (61224) **9.00** Moonlighting (81088) **10.00** Catchphrase (83243) **10.30** Timbn (49663) **11.00** Lou Grant (38576) **12.00** Rhoda (47373) **12.30am** Big Brother Jake (18373) **1.00** GP (45809) **1.30** Trivial

Transfer may follow call-up

Ferguson likely to take lead role in Greece

By Kevin McCarra

NOT even a 6ft 3in centre forward is expected to overshadow an entire Scotland international football squad, so it says much for the potent blend of fame and notoriety that attaches to Duncan Ferguson that his name overshadowed the 17 others when the party for the European championship qualifying tie against Greece in Athens on December 18 was announced yesterday.

The Rangers player is with Everton on loan, but the move may become permanent if the details of a £4 million transfer fee can be agreed. Other items on Ferguson's agenda include a court appearance in January on a charge of assault, stemming from an alleged butting incident during a match against Raith Rovers in April. A 12-game Scottish Football Association (SFA) ban is suspended pending appeal.

The Scotland coach, Craig Brown, was understandably reluctant to make much of a hullabaloo over the return of Ferguson, who has not played for Scotland since their match against Germany 21 months ago. It was even stressed that Ferguson owes his place to the unavailability of Scott Booth, the Aberdeen striker. Brown, however, did acknowledge that Ferguson has begun to reconstruct his career at Goodison Park.

"I saw him at Chelsea and he looked happy, swashbuckling and uninhibited," Brown said. "I was beside Everton fans who chanted his name all through the game. That must give him confidence."

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, spent yesterday with Ferguson and was hoping to finalise a long-term contract this morning. "We have agreed the basis of a deal for Duncan but negotiations are still going on," Royle said. If the move goes through, it would break Everton's record fee of £3 million, paid for Daniel Amokachi, the Nigeria international, by Mike Walker earlier this season. Ferguson has scored twice in three games under Royle.

A target man who can be trusted with the ball at his feet is highly prized, as the SFA's accountants will shortly discover. "At the present inflated prices he is worth £4 million," Brown said, "and he is going to distort our insurance premium for this squad.

"Each club gives us a valuation for any of their players who are included. After Duncan, the next highest figure might only be about £1.5 million. That tells you the type of players you are dealing with." Brown hinted that Ferguson may win a place in the starting line-up in Greece. "We don't have an established partnership ... so whatever we do in Athens will be experimental," Brown said.

Ferguson, 22, is volatile, but Brown suggested tentatively that the striker's temperament may have become slightly more trustworthy. "He has matured a bit," Brown said. "He has come in for some abuse from big central defenders in Premiership matches and he has still kept his cool."

The bigger reservations over Ferguson may concern his effectiveness. Brown reckons he still lacks some sharpness. Ferguson's goalscoring record also highlights his limitations. In 14 Scottish League appearances for Rangers he has scored twice. After four caps, he is still to score a goal for his country.

Nonetheless, his ability in the air should extend Scotland's repertoire against Greece. A group with six members has much scope for unexpected developments, but the hopes of Brown's team, which drew at home to Russia last month, would be damaged by defeat in Athens. Ferguson's availability comes as a relief.

Everton will probably see it differently. They, along with Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea, Tranmere Rovers, Bolton Wanderers and Arsenal, will have to play league matches without their Scotland internationals that weekend. It is ironic that Everton must pay for restoring Ferguson's fortunes by losing his services.

SCOTLAND SQUAD

A Goram (Rangers), J Leighton (Hibernian), T Boyd (Celtic), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D Jackson (Hibernian), G McAllister (Leeds United), S McCall (Rangers), S McKimmie (Aberdeen), W McKinlay (Dundee United), A McLaren (Rangers), P McStay (Celtic), B Martin (Motherwell), J Collins (Celtic), P Nevin (Tranmere Rovers), D Robertson (Rangers), J Spencer (Chelsea), D Ferguson (Rangers), J McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers).



Ferguson: a target for club and country yesterday



GRAHAM MORRIS

McCague contemplates his ill fortune with injury as he packs his bags yesterday in preparation for the flight home from Sydney

Fraser moves from stand-by to stand-in

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, in Sydney

DEVON MALCOLM, on whom such unreasonable expectations rested when England set out for Australia, emerged yesterday looking fit and healthy and pledging to make up for time lost to an attack of chicken-pox. Across the same hotel lobby Martin McCague, his luckless deputy as England's strike bowler, was glumly contemplating the premature end of his first senior overseas tour.

It was a curious scene and an incomplete one, for uncertainty continued to surround the identity of McCague's replacement, now that he has submitted to medical opinion over a stress fracture of the right shin. The tour management wanted Angus Fraser, whose ability has assumed mythical proportions in recent days, but the decision needed ratification from Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors.

From London it was eventually announced yesterday that Fraser, 29, who has been playing for Western Suburbs in grade cricket here, would be the choice. "It's not the same as being picked in the first place but I'm happy to be involved and I'm looking forward to the challenge," Fraser, who has made 21 Test appearances for England, said.

"I've been satisfied with the way I've been bowling out here. The standard of cricket is pretty good and it's been nice to get some wickets after a fairly hard summer." Western Suburbs are top of the Sydney first grade. Fraser will join England's practice session here today with several of his Western Suburbs team-mates, who will help the touring team in the nets.

So while McCague awaits a flight home next Monday and clings to the faint hope of returning during January, attention turns to Malcolm, who, tomorrow, will start his first match in a month.

He plays against the Australian Cricket Academy at North Sydney Oval, a fixture that quite properly remains a three-day affair despite England's attempt to turn it into limited-overs practice.

The academy, which has already produced a stream of Test players among its graduates and one, Shane Warne, among its celebrated failures, will not be negligible opposition. Its side is likely to include Brad Hodge, 19, who averaged 52 last winter in his debut season for Victoria, and a highly promising South Australian fast bowler, Mark Harrity.

Malcolm is grateful simply to be mixing with his team again after the confinements he suffered in Brisbane. "My only contact with the lads was on the phone," he said. "Dave Roberts, the physio, was the only one allowed to come in and see me and I found myself looking forward to his visits each night. It was a very frustrating time."

The frustration is just beginning for McCague. Last night he disclosed that he had been in pain for most of the tour but was reluctant to make anything of it for fear of perpetuating the theory that he is injury prone. Significantly, however, he refused the chance to use his condition as an excuse for his poor bowling in the first Test at Brisbane.

"I played there fully believing I could get through the five days. I just bowled badly. To play for England was all I had wanted since my last Test at Headingley, two years ago. But I had a nightmare — again. I had tried to keep the shin problem to myself but it got to the stage where I couldn't walk properly and I knew I had to do something about it."

Stewart campaigns Page 43
Wells plays it tough Page 43
Zimbabwe blow Page 43

Mitchell dashes ahead of Christie in sprint ranking list



Christie: faster

David Powell, athletics correspondent, feels Christie will be furious at finishing runner-up in magazine's ratings

LINFORD CHRISTIE was not the best 100 metres runner in the world in 1994, according to the United States magazine, *Track and Field News*, which describes itself as the Bible of the sport. In its annual rankings, which appear in next month's issue, the publication lists Dennis Mitchell, of the United States, at No 1 and Christie at No 2. Leroy Burrell, who set a world record of 9.85sec in July but faded in August, is ranked No 4.

It is a decision that is bound to infuriate Christie, and with some justification. Even the magazine's own athlete-of-the-year vote, won by Noureddine Morceli, scored Christie more highly than Mitchell.

Track and Field News, which is influential among athletes' sponsors, ranked the Briton at No 1 in 1992 and 1993. In announcing its 1994 rankings, it noted that, in six races between Christie and Mitchell, they had won three each, but added: "Mitchell had a better top-five average on marks and won the climactic race of the year, the GP [grand prix] final."

However, in the one year in four when when there is no global championship, the Weltklasse grand prix in Zurich is the most important 100 metres and Christie gave the Americans a thrashing. Mitchell included. Furthermore, his best legal time, 9.91sec, was faster than Mitchell's (9.94sec) and he won the European and Commonwealth championships, the World Cup and the European Cup.

These triumphs have been held in less regard than Mitchell's in the Goodwill Games, in which Christie did not compete. "Christie won what was important to him, but Mitchell won what was important to the rankers," *Track and Field News* added.

☐ Three former internationals are on the five-strong British Athetic Federation panel that will hear drug-taking charges against Diane Modahl in London next Tuesday. They include Joslyn Hoyte-Smith, who held the UK 400 metres record in the early 1980s, Chris Carter, who was an 800 metres runner, and the chairman, Dr Martyn Lucking, a former shot putter. The others on the panel, named last night, are Walter Nicholls, a solicitor, and Al Guy, of Ireland, a council member of the European Athletic Association. Modahl, who tested positive at a meeting in Lisbon in June, denies taking any banned substance.

☐ The German sprinter, Katrin Krabbe's, hopes of making a comeback after a drugs ban have suffered a setback because of a split with her training partner, Grit Breuer. Breuer and Manuela Derr, suspended with Krabbe, have decided to leave the former double world champion's Neubrandenburg club in favour of the Schwerin club.

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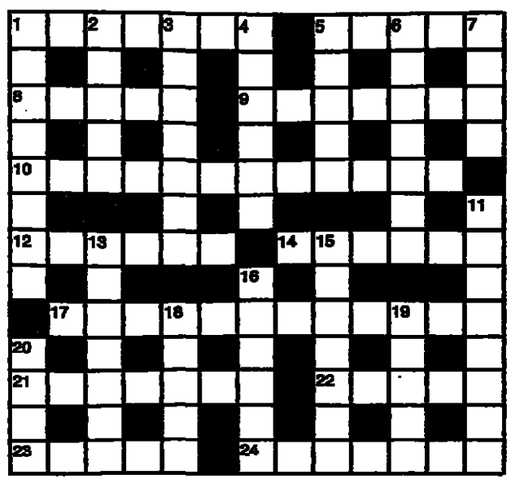
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD
No 339

ACROSS
1 Discriminating eater (7)
5 Unable to see (5)
8 Savoury jelly (5)
9 Outer covering (7)
10 Hard-headed bargaining (5-7)
12 Prestige (6)
14 Girl's name: Richardson novel (6)
17 In secret, in confusion (6-6)
21 Roman comic playwright (7)
22 Also known as (5)
23 Inexpensive (5)
24 Irish home-brew; drinking den (7)

DOWN
1 Computer-drawn pictures (8)
2 Higher (5)
3 Heavy knife (7)
4 Frustrate (6)
5 Gold piping (5)
6 Encroach (7)
7 (Scottish) dagger (4)
11 Troops guarding fortification (8)
13 Holy war (7)
15 Flatter obsequiously (7)
16 Crucial turning point (6)
18 Arise (3,2); a costume (3-2)
19 Show the way (5)
20 Detailed working description (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 338

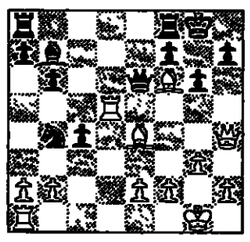
ACROSS: 7 Pact 8 Landlord 9 Malinger 10 Dude 11 Origin 13 Pretty 15 Uproar 17 Devout 19 Brat 21 Orthodox 23 Ignominy 24 Ibis

DOWN: 1 Malaprop 2 String 3 Slag 4 Intrepid 5 Pledge 6 Brad 12 Narcotic 14 Teutonic 16 Option 18 Violin 20 Rage 22 Toys

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Alekhine - Bogolyubov, Triberg 1921. White's pieces are concentrated in the vicinity of the black king. What did Alekhine, White to play, have in mind to exploit this?



Solution, page 44
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

POETETTE
a. A young poetess
b. An East African vegetable
c. A miniature French button

PITHECANTHROPUS
a. A fatal bone disease
b. The creature between apes and man
c. A snake's skin patterning

RAUWOLFIA
a. A German hunting dog
b. A small tree
c. An invigorating scrub

PROTARGOL
a. A rocky ridge
b. A mild antiseptic
c. Lincolnshire fishing net

Answers on page 44

هذا من الاصل